

Additional File 1: Phase 1 interview guide

Understanding barriers and enablers for primary care health staff when referring patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) to Pulmonary Rehabilitation: a qualitative study. Topic Guide for Interviews.

Interview Objectives:

- To explore the experience of primary care practitioners in relation to referral of patients with COPD to pulmonary rehabilitation.
- To gain an understanding of the main perceived barriers and enablers for referring COPD patients for pulmonary rehabilitation.
- To gain insight into whether any patient characteristics influence whether or not people with COPD are referred for pulmonary rehabilitation.

Understanding current behaviour

To start the discussion, participants will be asked to talk about their experiences of managing patients with COPD in primary care and any experience of referral for pulmonary rehabilitation

1/ Could you tell me in what context do you currently see COPD patients? (Exposure to population/target intervention within working role e.g. planned – annual review/flu jab or unplanned - exacerbation)

2/ On average how many COPD patients do you think you see per week?

3/ Do you currently refer to PR programmes?

Capability, Opportunity, Motivation – including External Context

4/ What is your understanding/view surrounding Pulmonary Rehabilitation programs in general? And in relation to your local provider?....

5/ Do you think pulmonary rehabilitation is beneficial for patients? In what ways? Or why not?

6/ How easy or difficult is it for you to refer to your local PR provider?

(Eg. Is it your role to refer? When is it appropriate to refer COPD patients to PR?)

7/ What motivates you to refer patients to PR ?

(Eg. Do patients/carers ever ask you about pulmonary rehabilitation? Does the post PR patient summary motivate you, are you reminded by prompts or other guidance?)

8/ What do you think stops you from referring patients to pulmonary rehabilitation?

Images Alternating images (between 1-4)

9/ If this person was in your COPD patient, would you consider discussing PR with them? Why? Why not?

Future

10/ Is there anything that you think could improve the primary care discussion surrounding PR and/or encourage you to make referrals to PR?

Possible prompts: Do you think a short video clip would help you motivate patients? Or computerised prompts to follow? Or a further telephone call to encourage patients? Or a firm appointment slot to discuss PR with them?