

Supplementary File 1. Questionnaire used for structured interview with patients.

Q1: Tell me what you know about your COPD.

Q2: Tell me what you know about your medicines for COPD.

Q3: Tell me what you are able to do when you are well? (e.g.: How far can you walk? Do you use any help at home? How much are you able to play with the children / grandchildren? Can you go hunting and fishing?)

Q4: Tell me what happens when you start to get unwell. What types of symptoms do you get? How do you know that you are getting unwell?

Q5: Tell me what you do when you start to feel unwell.

Q6: How is your local doctor / GP or health clinic involved with you when you are a little unwell with your COPD?

Q7: What medicines do you have that you only use when you are starting to get unwell?

Q8: How do you know if you are getting better or getting worse?

Q9: If you feel you are getting worse, what do you do then?

Q10: How unwell do you get before you come to hospital? What are things that make you decide to go to hospital?

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Q11: When you come to hospital how do you expect to be involved in your treatment?" "0 - No response

Q12: Do you have a written plan that says how you are when you are well and what care you would want when you get sick? If NO, would you like to have a care plan? How can we help you to make your care plan?

Q13: You will never be cured of COPD but you can make yourself fitter, healthier and feel better with help. Can you tell me what does your COPD stop you doing now that you would like to be able to do? (e.g.: more energy to interact with family, would like to travel, would like to be able to get out of the house more? Etc.?)

Supplementary file 2. Themes and sub-themes coded from patient responses to binary variables

Themes	Sub themes coded
Understanding of COPD	Emphysema, Asthma, “Bad lungs”, “Know nothing/Never heard of it”, Knowledge, Causes, Smoking, Confusion
Medications	Puffers/inhalers, tablets, home oxygen, bush medicine, herbal medicine, medicine identification, symptomatic use, regular use, irregular use, multi medication, poor knowledge, technique
Symptoms	Head/body ache, fever/chills, short of breath, can’t walk, wheeze, cough, phlegm production, fatigue, chest pain, palpitations, dizzy, runny nose, feet swell, difficulty talking
Exacerbations	Initial exacerbation: Medication (Puffer, tablet, oxygen, bush medicine, herbal medicine, avoid), Activity modification (sit and rest, avoid activities, shower, breathing practice, drink water/tea), Healthcare utilisation, Tertiary or Primary healthcare, in conjunction to medication/activity modification, if medication/activity modification failed, without any medication/activity modification Worsening exacerbation: Primary healthcare, tertiary healthcare, tertiary healthcare via primary
Interactions with Healthcare	Primary healthcare: Regular, irregular/symptom based. Tertiary healthcare: Previous admissions, Preference to be there, family.