



Clinical Champion Update

Date: 10/24/22

Subject: COPD

COPD pointers

- Please consider using the newer GOLD Guidelines-based COPD template when seeing a patient with COPD who may not be doing well, it will help you with medication tune up. If needed, check out the COPD exacerbation management on intranet under Clinical Champions Updates, May 31st-COPD.
- Please consider ordering pulmonary function testing if none has been done for 5 years or patient's symptoms have progressed despite optimal management that was based on the values from their last PFTs. Also order PFTs if none found on chart or diagnosis is questionable. ABG is not needed most of the time, but consider ordering DLCO (diffusing capacity) if concerned about interstitial lung disease based on exam, imaging or environmental exposure history.
- If/when needed, review the Youtube videos for educational purposes on PFTs available on intranet under Clinical Guidelines/COPD Guidelines/Pulmonary Function Tests.
- GOLD Guidelines are very comprehensive, "all you need to know about COPD", can download the whole document or a pocket guide using this link:
<https://goldcopd.org/2022-gold-reports-2/>
- Please consider printing the attached generic/brand name med list and keeping it at your desk and exam rooms. Gold Guidelines as well as most scientific literature use generic med names. It is much easier to look up generic name of your patient's meds on this list.
- Don't forget about updating vaccinations and smoking cessation counseling in COPD patients.

Thanks,

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