

Documentation Tip of the Week: COPD

DID YOU KNOW?

COPD is the #9 most denied admission diagnosis by the RAC

COPD is a chronic condition and should not be admitted to the hospital unless one of these issues is present

- 1. Acute Exacerbation**
 - a. Document acute exacerbation of COPD if admission is medically necessary and IV steroids and frequent nebulization treatments are required**

- 2. Acute Respiratory Failure – frequently the actual reason for the admission**
 - a. Document when the clinical criteria are present**
 - i. requires 2 of the following 3**
 - 1. Respiratory Distress – document this in the physical exam**
 - 2. PaO₂ < 60mmHg (pulse ox <88%) or higher oxygen requirements for COPD patients on oxygen**
 - 3. PaCO₂ > 50 mmHg with a pH < 7.35 (means acute)**

Chronic Respiratory Failure

Commonly missed diagnosis associated with COPD

- 1. Home oxygen >16 hours a day (not just nighttime oxygen)**
- 2. PaCO₂ > 50 when pH isn't < 7.35 (means chronic)**

Remember to document Acute on Chronic when appropriate



Remember - Hospital documentation can include "possible, probable, likely or suspected" diagnoses

DrBrundage@Gmail.com

www.facebook.com/BrundageMedicalGroup

