NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# NICE indicator guidance

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## Indicator NM47

The percentage of patients with COPD and Medical Research Council (MRC) Dyspnoea Scale ≥3 at any time in the preceding 15 months, with a subsequent record of an offer of referral to a pulmonary rehabilitation programme.

## Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

## Rationale

Pulmonary rehabilitation is designed to optimise each patient’s physical and social performance and independence. This indicator aims to reduce disability and improve quality of life for patients who consider themselves to be functionally disabled by their COPD by ensuring they are offered a referral to a pulmonary rehabilitation programme.

## Source guidance

[Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in over 16s: diagnosis and management](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng115). NICE guideline NG115 (2018, updated 2019), recommendation 1.2.82.

## Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator with a subsequent record of an offer of referral to a pulmonary rehabilitation programme.

Denominator: The number of patients on the COPD register with a Medical Research Council (MRC) Dyspnoea Scale ≥3 at any time in the preceding 15 months.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions:

* Patients on the COPD register who attended pulmonary rehabilitation at any point between date of diagnosis and prior to a MRC breathlessness scale score of >3.
* Patients for whom pulmonary rehabilitation is unsuitable including those who are unable to walk, who have unstable angina or who have had a recent myocardial infarction.
* Patients who have not responded to at least two COPD care review invitations, made at least 7 days apart.

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

## Further information

This is NICE indicator guidance, which is part of the [NICE menu of indicators](https://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/index). This document does not represent formal NICE guidance.