

## **The National COPD Audit 2008**

We have been asked to encourage participation by practices in The National COPD Audit 2008. The audit is a collaborative project between the Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit at the Royal College of Physicians, The British Thoracic Society and The British Lung Foundation, and is funded by The Health Foundation.

In 2003, there was a National COPD Audit which focussed on a clinical audit of patients admitted to hospital with an exacerbation of COPD and also secondary care service provision/processes of care. For the 2008 project, the breadth of the audit has been increased in response to the changing patterns of care (specifically the integration of COPD services to community settings) and so we are planning to collect information about wider aspects of care and influences of admission and outcomes.

The general practice part of the audit will comprise of a survey being sent to the GPs of patients admitted to hospital with an exacerbation of COPD during the audit period. The survey aims to identify factors in pre-admission care that may have influenced the admission to hospital. It will be a short paper-based survey that can be completed by a GP, practice nurse or manager prior to being returned to the RCP via a pre-paid envelope. The main audit is due to begin on 3 March 2008.

The National COPD Audit 2008 is an ambitious, important project and it is hoped there will be a high participation rate, so that a truly national picture of COPD care can be presented.

Further details are available at  
[www.rcplondon.ac.uk/college/ceeu/ceeu\\_copd\\_home.htm](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/college/ceeu/ceeu_copd_home.htm).

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