

Summary of Proposal Submitted by St. Mary's General Hospital in Kitchener, ON COPD Chronic Disease Management in the Community: An Emergency Department Solution

- COPD accounts for the majority of hospital admissions and readmissions within 29 days post discharge
- COPD is the second most common reason for admission in the elderly
- In Saskatoon they developed a similar program and had a 23% reduction in readmission rates

Proposed outline of program:

- Use of professionals very knowledgeable in COPD management
- Comprehensive enrolment, documentation and follow-up of program
- Include family/caregivers to ensure strong support system
- Referrals from many sources/automatic referrals from Emerg. Department, inpatient units and pulmonary function labs etc.
- Providers would include: dietitians, social workers, CCAC's, pharmacists, PT, lung assoc., nursing, physicians etc.
- Program would operate 4 days wkly in community setting
- Program would be 2 hrs and in small group sessions and each participant would attend one education session and one exercise session each week for 2 wks-education sessions would include info from "living well with COPD" and resources from The Lung Assoc.
- This program could also be transferred to other chronic diseases such as: CHF, diabetes, obesity etc.
- Client would need to be evaluated through surveys, telephone follow up and hospital visits monitored for acute or inpatient stays by participants
- Clients will also complete a "validated quality of life" questionnaire prior to and upon completion of program

Budget

- Total of \$349,930/yr. which includes all staff, space rental, equipment, learning materials etc. (copy of breakdown available)

Recommendations

- **due to local budget restraints we may need to look at other resources within our community such as: AHU (smoking cessation program), The Lung Assoc., newly appointed nurse practitioner in emerg. department etc.**
- **establish a small working group to develop a screening tool and incorporate the "validated quality of life" questionnaire**

