



GREY BRUCE HEALTH NETWORK

EVIDENCE-BASED CARE PROGRAM

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE

PATIENT PATHWAY

PROCESS	ADMISSION
PATIENT OUTCOMES	This will help you understand what will happen to you during your stay at the hospital. If you do not understand, please feel free to ask the nurse.
ASSESSMENT	Your temperature, pulse, breathing and blood pressure will be checked. A nurse will listen to your chest and assess your breathing. For the first 24 hours you will be in isolation, which means any visitors or caregivers will wear a mask and protective clothing to prevent the spread of germs.
TESTS	You will have some blood tests done and a chest x-ray taken.
MEDICATIONS	Drugs will be given to you as ordered by your doctor. These will probably include antibiotic(s) and medication to help with your breathing.
TREATMENTS	You will be given oxygen through a face mask or small prongs in your nose if necessary.
NUTRITION	You may eat or drink as you like, unless you require a special diet. It is important that you drink a lot of fluids.
ACTIVITY	You will be encouraged to move as much as possible. Staff will assist you as needed.
EDUCATION	You should discourage visitors with colds or recent infection.
DISCHARGE PLANNING	

PROCESS	PHASE 1 (APPROXIMATELY 2 DAYS)
PATIENT OUTCOMES	You are now starting to breathe easier.
ASSESSMENT	Your temperature, pulse, breathing and blood pressure will be checked frequently. A nurse will listen to your chest and assess your breathing every 8 hours, or more often if necessary.
TESTS	
MEDICATIONS	You will continue taking drugs to help you breathe.
TREATMENTS	You will continue to receive oxygen if necessary.
NUTRITION	You will be encouraged to drink extra fluids.
ACTIVITY	You will be encouraged to sit in a chair and walk short distances today. Staff will assist you as needed.
EDUCATION	A nurse will review this pathway with you and your family. You will be given a booklet that will help you to understand what is happening while in the hospital.
DISCHARGE PLANNING	A Community Care Access Centre Case Manager may talk with you if needed, to plan for your discharge from hospital.

PROCESS	PHASE 2 (APPROXIMATELY 3 DAYS)
PATIENT OUTCOMES	You are now preparing for discharge. Your breathing should be back to normal and you should be off oxygen by the time you are discharged, if you normally do not use oxygen at home.
ASSESSMENT	Your temperature, pulse, breathing and blood pressure will be checked. A nurse will listen to your chest and assess your breathing.
TESTS	You may have some blood work done.
MEDICATIONS	You will continue taking drugs to help your breathing. Let the nurse know if you are having difficulty breathing.
TREATMENTS	Your need for oxygen will be reassessed. Continue deep breathing and coughing exercises.
NUTRITION	You should continue to drink extra fluids.
ACTIVITY	You will be encouraged to continue moving and walking as much as possible, increasing your activity level each day in preparation for returning home.
EDUCATION	A nurse will review the booklet on COPD with you. You will receive instructions to help you prepare for discharge, including reasons to call your doctor. A pharmacist/nurse may see you if the drugs you took at home before coming to the hospital have changed a great deal.
DISCHARGE PLANNING	A Community Care Access Centre Case Manager may talk with you if needed. You may be discharged if your breathing is improving.

PROCESS	DISCHARGE CRITERIA
PATIENT OUTCOMES	You should now understand what to do when you leave the hospital to care for your COPD. You should be moving and walking like you did before you had this attack.
ASSESSMENT	
TESTS	
MEDICATIONS	You will be given a prescription when discharged. Please take them exactly as ordered by your doctor.
TREATMENTS	
NUTRITION	Continue to drink a lot of water and eat a balanced diet.
ACTIVITY	
EDUCATION	A nurse will review your discharge instructions with you and your family. If you have been instructed to continue to take antibiotics or breathing medication at home, you will be given a discharge prescription.
DISCHARGE PLANNING	You may be referred for oxygen at your home if necessary.