CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE

An oversized burden on our nation's health

3rd leading cause of death (135,000 deaths in US in 2010)
8th most expensive disease ($32 billion in direct healthcare costs)
3rd most common cause of 30-day rehospitalization

Problem Analysis

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Underdiagnosed
Exposure to air pollutants

Impact to the Goals

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
5th most expense disease ($32 billion in direct healthcare costs)
3rd most common cause of 30-day rehospitalization

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Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
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Possible solution: Quit smoking

Possible solution: Avoid exposure to smoke

Possible solution: Avoid exposure to chemicals

Possible solution: Avoid exposure to secondhand smoke

Possible solution: Avoid exposure to tobacco smoke

COPD under-diagnosed
Exposure to air pollutants
Respiratory infections/untreated asthma
Inadequate treatment
No cure for COPD
Age of patient
COPD exacerbated
Development of COPD
Progression of COPD
Delayed reporting to healthcare providers

Effect

Why?

Cause

NOTE: Read the Cause Map from left to right with the phrase "Was Caused By" in place of each arrow.

Step 1. Problem

Problem(s)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Why did it happen?
An oversized burden on our nation's health
Different, unusual, unique
Underdiagnosed

Step 2. Analysis

What's the Problem?
What will be done?

Step 3. Solutions

Patient Safety Goal Impacted
135,000 deaths in 2010 (3rd leading cause of death since 2008)
$20 billion

Environmental Goal Impacted
Exposure to air pollutants
Potential for penalty/loss of benefits associated with readmission rates

Compliance Goal Impacted
50% chance of rehospitalization (3rd most common cause of 30-day rehospitalization)
$3.9 billion

Schedule/Operations Goal Impacted
Direct medical costs (5th most expensive disease)
$32.1 billion

Property/Equipment Goal Impacted

Labor/Time Goal Impacted

Frequency
14.8 million physician-diagnosed cases of COPD in the US

NOTE: Tobacco smoke AND environmental pollutants can reduce rate of exacerbations by almost 20%

COPD patients may find it difficult to quit smoking because the disease can make quitting feel like a chore.

Possible solution: Seek treatment for exacerbations quickly

Possible solution: Adhere to medication plan

Possible solution: Optimize medications can reduce exacerbations by 40% of COPD sufferers are over age 65

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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