

14 Appendix D. Economic Costs of COPD to the NHS

Titles were reviewed for references relating to the financial cost/economic burden of COPD in England and Wales. Studies relating to the cost in other countries were excluded.

Four relevant sources of information were identified. Two papers^{485;486}, an abstract⁴⁸⁷ and a discussion document⁴⁸⁸ were identified. In addition, one paper¹³ was identified at a later date by referral from a GDG member as it had just been published. The paper by Sullivan et al was based on the NHS discussion document, another identified source. Only the Sullivan paper has been included.

References from these sources were checked for further references. No further references were identified. The details of each source are reported in the table opposite.

14 Appendix D. The cost effectiveness of opportunistic case finding in primary care

Category	Calverley ⁴⁸⁷	Guest 1999 ⁴⁸⁵	Sullivan 2000 ⁴⁸⁶	Britton 2003 ¹³
Year for cost data	1995/6	1996/7	1996	2000/01
Sources	Used data from the 4th GP National Morbidity Study, Hospital Episode Statistics, Scottish NHS, Welsh Office, Mortality Statistics and DSS.	Based on a sub group analysis of a previously published prevalence-based burden of illness analysis	NHS Burdens of disease: a discussion document 1996	Telephone interviews. Part of the confronting COPD in North America and Europe survey. Collected data on resource use on a sample of the UK population with COPD. Used UK unit costs for resources to estimate an average per patient cost. Also estimated by severity of COPD
Method	Top down	Top down	Top down	Micro costing
GP costs £	21,000,000	236,500,000	88,000,000 (primary care and community based services)	105.54 per patient
Medications £	85,000,000		402,000,000	130.54 per patient
GP		116,900,000		
Hospital		8,900,000		
Oxygen	156,000,000		207,000,000 (ambulatory)	Home oxygen 22.30 per patient
Hospital £	224,000,000		151,000,000	
Inpatient		243,400,000		444.60 per patient
Outpatient		35,000,000		
Day Case				
Emergency Admission	174,000,000			116.47 per patient
Other £		164,300,000		
Total £	486,000,000	817,500,000	848,000,000	491,652,000 direct 982,000,000 direct and indirect combined
Per patient Direct costs £	781		1,154	819.42
Per patient Indirect costs £				819.66

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: National clinical guideline on management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults in primary and secondary care

The papers all differ in terms of their methodology and their data sources, as well as the costs that they include. The cost per patient for those using a top down approach also depends on the total number of patients they divide the total cost by. This may also explain some of the wide variation seen in the costs.

The paper by Britton et al also estimates the cost by disease severity.

Estimated cost by disease severity p.a. (2000/01) ¹³

- Mild €232 £149.68
- Moderate €477 £307.74
- Severe €2026 £1,307.10

These cost estimates could be viewed as the incremental cost of a COPD patient compared to the general population, as the study asked patients about resource use related to their COPD.

14.1 Cost of an exacerbation

Four papers of potential relevance were found.

Andersson et al (2002)³⁹⁴

Costs given in SEK, converted to GB£ by using purchasing power parities for 2002 from the OECD <http://www.oecd.org/>

Mild	£7.94
Mild/moderate	£23.43
Moderate	£139.74
Severe	£1,446.48

Price et al (1999)³⁹⁵

Mild	£14.81
Moderate	£95.20
Severe	£1,658.59

Gibson et al (1998)⁴⁸⁹ This identifies resource by COPD patients with an exacerbation but does not cost it.

McGuire et al (2001)⁴⁹⁰

This gives a total excess cost of exacerbations, but does not give a per patient cost.

1994/5 excess costs: £35.7 million.



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