

NEWS & NOTES

The Newsletter for EmblemHealth, GHI and HIP Providers

SPRING 2012

In This Issue:

Administrative

- [Medicare and Medicaid Updates](#)
- [Introducing Care360](#)
- [EmblemHealth Injectable Drug Utilization Management Program Begins](#)
- [Claims Corner](#)
- [Utilization Review Criteria Update](#)
- [Medical Director Availability After an Adverse Determination](#)
- [Member Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Provider Advisory Webinars a Success](#)
- [CAHPS Member Satisfaction Surveys Are in the Field!](#)
- [Behind the Scenes](#)

Keep Your Directory Information Current

Clinical

- [Colorectal Cancer Screening](#)
- [Medication Adherence for Chronic Conditions](#)
- **Medical Management of COPD**
- [Dental Hygiene Is Important](#)
- [How to Help Your Patient With ADHD](#)
- [Your Role in Slowing the Obesity Epidemic](#)
- [Health and Wellness Programs](#)
- [What Is a Health Outcome Survey?](#)
- [Clinical Corner](#)
- [News&Notes Archive](#)

Medical Management of COPD

In 2009, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was estimated to cause approximately 137,000 deaths, becoming the third leading cause of death in the United States. COPD is also the only major illness where the rate of mortality is still increasing. In New York State, COPD claims approximately 6,000 lives every year. While there is no cure for the disease, proper medical management has been shown to decrease its overall effects.

To confirm, evaluate and stratify the severity of COPD, we recommend [spirometry testing](#). Pharmacotherapy is an essential component of proper management of exacerbations. The [Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease \(GOLD\)](#) recommends bronchodilators and systemic corticosteroids as part of a treatment plan for COPD exacerbations.



For more information on COPD management, you may consult the Clinical Practice Guidelines we adopted for [COPD](#). We also offer the [Better Breathing PATH](#) program for patients with COPD. To enroll one of your EmblemHealth, HIP or GHI patients in the Better Breathing PATH program, call **1-888-881-3112**.