

Guideline for Hospital Admission

Ministry of Public Health - Lebanon

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) indications for admission

Most patients with mild COPD can be treated at home and do not require hospital admission. Patients that presenting with COPD exacerbation and the following factors are recommended for hospital admission and treatment:

- Cyanosis
- Impaired consciousness
- Severe breathlessness
- Worsening peripheral edema
- Poor or deteriorating general condition or activity level
- Rapid rate of onset
- Presence of cardiac disease, diabetes or other significant co-morbidities
- Changes on chest x-ray
- SaO₂<90%
- Arterial pH <7.35
- Arterial PaO₂<80mm Hg
- Already on long-term oxygen therapy

In addition to the above, the social circumstances of the patient must be taken into consideration in deciding whether to treat in hospital or at home.

References:

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), Management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 2010

Checklist:

	Present	Absent
Cyanosis		
Impaired consciousness		
Severe breathlessness		
Worsening peripheral edema		
Poor or deteriorating general condition or activity level		
Rapid rate of onset		
Presence of cardiac disease, diabetes or other significant co-morbidities		
Changes on chest x-ray		
SaO ₂ <90%		
Arterial pH <7.35		
Arterial PaO ₂ <80mm Hg		
Already on long-term oxygen therapy		