**COPD rescue meds**

1. Take repeat antibiotics / prednisolone off
2. Have annual review for COPD with nurse. Care plan given (G-drive – Clinical – QOF clinical areas – self-management care plan – COPD\_Passport\_Action\_plan) and rescue meds for antibiotics and steroids. Patient advised to seek help if no improvement within 2 days. Patient advised to ring surgery and book a face to face appointment with the nurse in 4-6 weeks hen starting antibiotics. Note recorded in the notes explaining this (use “copdrescuepack” synonym in the notes) and patient / carer advised to get access to their records.
3. When acute exacerbation starts, patient automatically starts steroids / antibiotics and book an appointment with the nurse
4. Patient calls 2 days later if no better for clinical review with nurse or doctor
5. Patient must ask for face to face consult with nurse following exacerbation for repeat rescue meds 4-6 weeks later. Note recorded in the notes explaining this (use “copdrescuepack” synonym in the notes) again as a reminder
6. If another exacerbation then call for an on the day appointment before seeing the nurse
7. If patient is treated for exacerbation of COPD by out of hours / A&E then arrange for patient to book in with nurse in 4-6 weeks

When you type “COPDrescuepack” into EMIS, the following text is added in the notes which the patient / carer can read:

*Please read your COPD care plan - you can get one from the doctor or nurse if you do not have one. A flare-up, sometimes called an exacerbation - is when your symptoms become particularly severe. The signs of a flare-up are 1) Your breathlessness gets worse 2) You cough more 3) You produce more sputum 4) A change in colour and consistency of your sputum. If this happens then you should start prednisolone and antibiotics as advised by your doctor or nurse. Book a routine appointment with the nurse to be seen in 4-6 weeks time for review and to collect your rescue steroids and antibiotics then. Remember to seek help if things do not improve within 2 days of starting the rescue medication or sooner if concerned. If you need to use more than 2 rescue medications in 1 year then book an appointment with the nurse for a review of your management plan. See the practice website www.htmc.co.uk and search for "COPD care" for further information.*

If the patient / carer has access to the internet or a smartphone then please sign them up for Records Access and Understanding OR send a practice note to Lorraine so that she can contact the patient and get them online to read what you write.

27th June 2018