



BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION

Somerset 
Primary Care Trust

Our ref: AW/COPD open patient letter

16 January 2008

**Wynford House
Lufton Way
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Somerset
BA22 8HR**

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Email: go@somersetpct.nhs.uk

Dear Patient,

Somerset Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease (COPD) Patient Forum Day: 28 February 2008

I have asked local health professionals to pass on this letter to people with Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease as part of a programme to inform patients about an exciting change in services for people with respiratory problems in Somerset. This letter is also informing you about an event on the 28 February 2008 which is being held in partnership the British Lung Foundation. The propose of the day is to discuss and listen to plans for a new community COPD service in Somerset and to find out more about the benefits it has to offer to individuals with severe respiratory problems.

Somerset Primary Care Trust in collaboration with hospital doctors, general practitioners and specialist nurses is working to enhance services in the community for people with Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease. The enhanced service is intended to include:

- a community based team to help support people with Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease and reduce the need for admission to hospital;
- pulmonary rehabilitation and information classes;
- oxygen assessment clinics for people with respiratory problems on long term oxygen.

The Primary Care Trust is investing over half million pounds in the service which is one of six service developments initiated by a consortium of local general practitioners, known as 'WyvernHealth.Com'. The consortia represents 71 of the county's 75 GP practices and has been established as part of a change in approach to health service commissioning that seeks to ensure local clinicians have a stronger say in how services are delivered.

This new COPD service has been designed to improve the quality of care for patients and has incorporated the responses to a patient feedback exercise held in the summer of 2007. The feedback from patients highlighted that previously services to patients have often been fragmented. All too often people with respiratory problems who suddenly experienced a worsening of their condition could find themselves having to be admitted to hospital because there is not a sufficiently good level of support within the community.

The new service is intended to offer patients care close to, or in their own homes, and reduce the likelihood of unnecessary hospital admissions. For the first time the new service will also deliver a countywide pulmonary rehabilitation service and a fair assessment for patients who need bottled oxygen at home

Chairman: Jane Barrie OBE

Chief Executive: Ian Tipney

www.somersetpct.nhs.uk



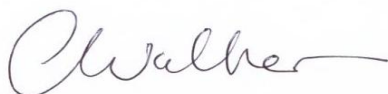
The community service will be provided by an organisation called Clinovia. They were awarded the three year contract following a detailed evaluation of service bids by a panel consisting of patients, external clinical experts, local general practitioners and managers.

We hope between us we will be able to make it an enjoyable and stimulating day. The Somerset COPD Forum day will be about us working together to define how to develop an effective user friendly new service; how we can make as big an impact as possible and how patients can help in redesigning the new service.

We will hold the COPD Forum day at The Holiday Inn, Taunton. The day will start at 10.30 am with refreshments available from 10.00 am and will end at 3.30 pm. We will put aside one hour for lunch which allows everyone to network and exchange ideas.

I enclose a booking form for you to complete and ask that, as numbers are limited you return it to the Freepost address detailed on the form by **31 January 2008**. **If you know of someone else who would like to attend they can telephone 01935 384000 to request a booking form.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Annabelle Walker
Programme Manager, Directorate of Strategic Development and Partnerships

Enc



BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION



Annabelle Walker, Programme Manager
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SOMERSET CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAYS DISEASE FORUM DAY
THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2008
10.30 AM – 3.30 PM, THE HOLIDAY INN, TAUNTON (Tea/Coffee at 10:00 am)

Please return this form by 31 January 2008, using the FREEPOST address above or by emailing Jill.Madgwick@somersetpct.nhs.uk, if you would like to attend the Somerset Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease Forum day on Thursday, 28 February 2008 at The Holiday Inn, Taunton.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS

Name

Role/Title

Your address/organisation

.....

.....

Email

Post Code Telephone number

Are you already involved in representing people with a lung condition? Yes / No

Further details and a map will be sent in early February 2008 when your place is confirmed

Are you a carer for someone with a lung condition? Yes / No

Will you be bringing oxygen with you? Yes / No

Please specify if you have any special dietary requirements

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Do you have any other special requirements?

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