



NZNO College of Respiratory Nurses monthly news bulletin Friday 27 March 2020

NZNO / College News

Consultation

NZNO regularly seeks members input on a range of documents up for consultation. The listing is regularly updated and full information [can be found here](#)

Air pollution

The world faces an air pollution 'pandemic'

Air pollution is responsible for shortening people's lives worldwide on a scale far greater than wars and other forms of violence, parasitic and insect-borne diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and smoking, according to a new study. [Read more](#)

Air pollution - the invisible killer

More than 90 percent of the world's population lives in places where air quality is worse than it should be. [Read more](#)

Asthma

Global Initiative releases Asthma and COVID-19 FAQ

The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has today published a set of frequently asked questions around asthma and COVID-19.

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ is an alliance member of the Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD), who fully support the advice given by GINA. The FAQ factsheet details how those with asthma should proceed in various scenarios, such as normal management or acute flare-ups, when to consider a nebuliser, and information for those with conditions like allergic rhinitis. [Read more](#)

Severe Asthma Toolkit: an online resource for multidisciplinary health professionals—needs assessment, development process and user analytics with survey feedback

Maltby S, Gibson PG, Reddel HK, et al

BMJ Open 2020;10:e032877. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2019-032877

Objectives Severe asthma imposes a significant burden on individuals, families and the healthcare system. New treatment and management approaches are emerging as effective options for severe asthma. Translating new knowledge to multidisciplinary healthcare professionals is a priority. We developed 'The Severe Asthma

Toolkit' (<https://toolkit.severeasthma.org.au>) to increase awareness of severe asthma, provide evidence-based resources and support decisionmaking by healthcare providers.

[Read more](#)

COPD

Integrated care conferences reduce length of hospital stay for COPD patients

Hospitals can dramatically reduce the length of a patient's stay (by up to 67%) when their provider teams hold integrated care conferences (ICCs), a daily meeting for providers to share information at once. However, the seemingly obvious concept is rarely implemented, according to researchers in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association.

[Read more](#)

The item below is not available full text but may be sourced via a DHB library through databases like CINAHL or Proquest, or through the NZNO library service

Palliative care for chronic respiratory disease: integrated care in outpatient settings

Christopher Huntley, Frances Hakkak, and Helen Ward

British Journal of Community Nursing, Vol. 25, No. 3: 132-138.

Chronic respiratory diseases are progressive and often life-limiting illnesses. Patients experience debilitating and troubling symptoms that impact on their quality of life. Despite this, there is under-recognition of patients who may be entering the final year of their life and require palliative care services. The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust in partnership with Compton Care has established chronic respiratory disease multidisciplinary team meetings and a combined respiratory and palliative care outpatient clinic to address these issues. This article presents the impact of this service, now in to its fourth year, of delivering palliative care services to patients with chronic respiratory disease.

The Impact of Pulmonary Rehabilitation on Chronic Pain in People with COPD,

Annemarie L. Lee, Stacey J. Butler, Robert G. Varadi, Roger S. Goldstein & Dina

Brooks (2020) COPD: Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary

Disease, DOI: [10.1080/15412555.2020.1733952](https://doi.org/10.1080/15412555.2020.1733952)

Chronic pain affects up to 88% of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and has been associated with comorbidities. However, with pain not evaluated during pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) assessments, it is unclear whether PR impacts pain intensity and coping ability. This study aimed to 1) determine the effect of PR on pain qualities, coping behavior and psychological symptoms in those with COPD and chronic pain; and 2) assess the impact of PR on exercise capacity and quality of life in individuals with COPD and chronic pain compared to those without pain. Patients with COPD and comorbidities enrolling in outpatient PR were assessed for chronic pain. Those with chronic pain completed the Brief Pain Inventory, Coping Strategies Questionnaire-24, Fear Avoidance Behavior Questionnaire and measures of anxiety and depression. Changes in HRQOL and 6-minute walk distance (6MWD) following PR were compared between participants with and without chronic pain. Thirty-four participants with chronic pain and 34 participants without pain were included (mean \pm SD, FEV₁ 47 \pm 19% predicted). In those with chronic pain, PR did not affect pain intensity (median[IQR] pre/post PR 3[2–5] vs. 4[2–6] points, p = 0.21), anxiety (7[2–9] vs. 5[3–8] points, p = 0.82) or depression (4[2–8] vs. 3[1–6] points, p = 0.38) and did not change pain coping strategies. Both groups improved in 6MWD (mean difference [95% CI] 17[–39 to 72] m), and those without pain had greater improvement in mastery (p = 0.013). PR was effective in patients with moderate to severe COPD whether or not they reported chronic pain at the time of their initial assessment.

Covid-19

No Evidence Found for SARS-CoV-2 Vertical Transmission to Fetus

No maternal-fetal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 seen to date in pregnant women with COVID-19. [Read more](#)

What scientists know so far about the effects of coronavirus on children

Studies show that young people are at less risk of serious illness – but as invisible carriers they may be key to spreading the virus. [Read more](#)

Covid-19 coronavirus: Government will fund home-based childcare for essential workers

The Government has agreed to fund home-based childcare for children of essential workers who can't arrange their own care during the coronavirus lockdown. [Read more](#)

Call for establishment of COVID rural testing stations

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network is calling for the urgent establishment of rural testing stations in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic to cater for not only locals but also an influx of out-of-towners. [Read more](#)

New model shows coronavirus could kill 80,000 Kiwis without lockdown

New research suggests up to 80,000 Kiwis could die from coronavirus without strict measures such as the country-wide lockdown. [Read more](#)

Coronavirus: What scientists know about how it spreads

ANALYSIS: There is not yet an ironclad scientific consensus on exactly how the coronavirus that causes covid-19 is spreading, but experts are getting a pretty good sense of it. That understanding needs to be central to our strategy of combating the virus with minimal collateral damage. [Read more](#)

Influenza

Coronavirus: Government launches major influenza vaccine campaign as Covid-19 looms

Nearly half a million additional influenza vaccinations will be rolled out two weeks early by the Government in hope of keeping hospital beds free for coronavirus. [Read more](#)

Government adds 400,000 more flu vaccines this year

The government is starting this year's flu vaccination programme about two weeks early to improve the ability to manage higher demand at hospitals due to the coronavirus. [Read more](#)

Coronavirus: Health professionals and elderly first in queue for flu vaccine this year

The Government is urging people to get vaccinated against the common flu to avoid taking up hospital resources that could be used to treat Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Obesity could increase severity of influenza study shows

A new study has revealed that those who are obese or overweight tend to get more severe bouts of influenza than those who are a healthy weight. The reason behind this could be the altered immune system of those who are obese. The study outlining this finding is published in the latest issue of the [journal mBio](#) from the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). The study was titled, "Obesity-Related Microenvironment Promotes Emergence of Virulent Influenza Virus Strains." [Read more](#)

Addressing Parents' Concerns Improves Influenza Immunization Rates

Increasing parental involvement in an immunization program helped to increase the number of young children who received the influenza vaccine, according to study results published in the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. [Read more](#)

Lung cancer

Lung cancer mortality could be reduced by including smoking cessation with screening

Including smoking cessation with existing lung cancer screening efforts would reduce [lung cancer mortality](#) by 14 percent and increase life-years gained by 81 percent compared with screening alone, according to a study from Rafael Meza from the University of Michigan and colleagues and published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology, a publication of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer. [Read more](#)

Unmet needs and opportunities for improving care for patients with advanced lung cancer on targeted therapies: a qualitative study

Al Achkar M, Marchand L, Thompson M, *et al*
BMJ Open 2020;**10**:e032639. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2019-032639

Objective Lung cancer is increasingly recognised as a heterogeneous disease. Recent advances with targeted therapies for lung cancer with oncogenic mutations have greatly improved the prognosis for this subset of patients, yet little is known about their experiences. This study aimed to identify the needs and explore the healthcare experiences of these advanced patients with oncogenic mutation driven lung cancer. [Read more](#)

Medication / pharmacy

New drug: 'It's made a huge difference,' asthma sufferer says

Hundreds of severe asthma sufferers will have access to a new medicine from next month. [Read more](#)

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Medicines adherence in respiratory disease

Jane Scullion

Practice Nursing, Vol. 31, No. 3: 122-126.

Adherence is the term currently used to describe a patient following prescribed or suggested treatment regimens. Jane Scullion looks at this concept in those with respiratory disease. In respiratory diseases, there are good pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapeutic interventions that can improve symptoms, health status and quality of life for many, and in some cases transform and even save lives. What is not in place is a robust method for ensuring that the therapies and interventions that are prescribed or advised can and will be taken as instructed, and we call this nonadherence. This article looks at medicines adherence, using examples from respiratory diseases and their treatments, discussing what is meant by it, the reasons it remains problematic, and what could be done about it in respiratory prescribing.

Sleep apnoea

Screening for obstructive sleep apnoea in professional drivers

Sophia E. Schiza, Izolde Bouloukaki

Breathe 2020 16: 29364; DOI: 10.1183/20734735.0364-2019

Professional drivers show a higher prevalence of obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) compared with the general population. Furthermore, there is concern about the association between OSA and car crash risk given that drivers with OSA show an increased risk for car accidents.

Despite this risk, OSA is often underdiagnosed and undertreated in this population, mainly due to lack of appropriate screening and sleep study referrals. Polysomnography (PSG), the gold standard test, is inappropriate for systematic screening because of its high expense, complexity and relative inaccessibility in this population. Therefore, there is a strong demand for good screening tools, including both subjective and objective data that may assist in early identification of possible OSA among professional drivers and, thus, aid in PSG examination referral and OSA management in an accredited sleep centre. However, there is considerable disagreement over screening methods and criteria for triggering a sleep study referral in different countries. There is also a strong need for further research in the area of OSA screening of commercial drivers in order to improve the diagnostic accuracy of screening tools and ensure that patients with OSA are accurately identified. [Read more](#)

Smoking (inc vaping and electronic cigarettes)

Quit Group vows to spend remaining funds on anti-smoking initiatives

Under-fire charity Quit Group will wind up in June once it has spent the \$2.7 million it has squirrelled away, it says. [Read more](#)

Guidance

Health matters: smoking and mental health

This edition of Health Matters focuses on smoking among the population of people living with a broad range of mental health conditions, ranging from low mood and common conditions such as depression and anxiety, to more severe conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. [Read more](#)

Regulating vaping and new nicotine products: Are tobacco companies' goals aligned with public health objectives?

The public will soon have the opportunity to make [submissions](#) on the long-awaited [Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products \(Vaping\) Amendment Bill](#) ('the Bill') which will regulate vaping products and alternative nicotine delivery systems. In a previous blog, ASPIRE 2025 researchers summarised the [strengths and limitations](#) of the Bill, and concluded that it contained several important measures, yet could do more to protect the health of children, young people and non-nicotine users. This blog – intended as a follow-up article to further promote discussion – summarises emerging evidence of British American Tobacco's ambitious plans for its nicotine products, and highlights the disjunction between tobacco companies' profit goals and public health objectives. [Read more](#)

Smoking related illness

Passive smoking tied to adolescent depression symptoms

(Reuters Health) - Regular exposure to secondhand smoke is more common among nonsmoking teens with depression symptoms, according to a survey across 22 low- and middle-income countries. [Read more](#)

Third-hand smoke is no joke, can convey hazardous chemicals

People can carry hazardous compounds from cigarette smoke that cling to their bodies and clothes and then release those compounds into non-smoking environments -- exposing people nearby to cigarettes' adverse effects, a new study shows. [Read more](#)

Tuberculosis

World TB Day: WHO urges TB prevention scale-up in new recommendations

WHO has issued updated guidance meant to decrease the development and transmission of tuberculosis in conjunction with World TB Day, which is observed every year on March 24. [Read more](#)

General items of interest

Lung Cancer Research Review

Issue 12

This month we feature three studies investigating the economics of lung cancer screening in Australia, the US and Denmark. [Read more](#)

Respiratory Research Review

Issue 170

An interesting study looks at the clinical implications of incidental VTE in patients with cancer. [Read more](#)

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of the NZNO College of Respiratory Nurses. It is for NZNO College of Respiratory Nurses only and must not be reproduced without their permission.

It is provided on the last Friday of each month and contains an overview of news items, articles and research papers of interest to the College members. All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

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