What is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

COPD is a common but serious lung disease that limits airflow to the lungs.1

- It affects individual patients in different ways and its impact can change over time.2

COPD remains under-diagnosed

COPD is diagnosed by assessment of symptoms and a spirometry test. This measures lung function, including how much and how quickly a person can exhale air from their lungs.2

Symptoms of COPD

Symptoms of COPD include breathlessness, chronic cough and increased production of phlegm.3

Everyday impact of COPD

3 out of 4 people with moderate COPD have a limited ability to carry out routine everyday tasks.9

COPD even restricts a person’s ability to walk up the stairs.10

And 40% of patients with COPD are forced to retire early.11

Economical impact of COPD

In Europe, COPD contributes 50% of respiratory healthcare costs.12

In the United States the estimated direct costs of COPD are $30 billion and the indirect costs are $20 billion.13

Management of COPD

A ‘one size fits all’ approach doesn’t necessarily work for patients with COPD as they have different treatment needs that can change over time.

To provide the right medicine to the right patient, treatment goals should be aligned to the key areas of patient need:6

- Treat symptoms
- Reduce risk of exacerbations

Although major advances have been made in COPD treatment in recent years, more needs to be done to improve disease management and quality of life for people with COPD.2,14

References