

## **Joint Working Agreement with NHS South of England – West**

### **Project: Reducing late diagnosis of COPD**

NHS South of England – West set up a project , with an alliance of partners from Industry (in addition to Chiesi Ltd., Boehringer, Novartis, Teva and Astra Zeneca) , to help reduce the late diagnosis of COPD, by screening patients with co-morbidities attending other long-term condition clinics and smoking-cessation clinics. The Clinical Support Services Plus (CSS<sup>+</sup>) Team of Health Care Professionals (HCPs) from Chiesi, agreed to participate in this patient-centred project and to work with practices, allocated by NHS South of England – West, to identify 100 patients who were suitable, and willing, to participate in the screening programme.

The Protocol is provided by NHS South of England - West, utilised across all practices, data is collected in the same format for analysis and collated and pooled by NHS South of England - West.

Inclusion criteria for patients participating in the project are stated as:

- Aged 35 and over
- Current or ex-smoker
- No recorded history of respiratory disease

and exclusion criteria:

- Patient unable to complete patient questionnaire to assess or perform spirometry
- Patient unwilling to be assessed

Patients are given a screening questionnaire, to complete MRC breathlessness scale, and the HCP performs micro spirometry.

The Chiesi HCP is also available to train practice staff to perform screening spirometry so that the same screening can continue moving forward once the support from industry partner has been fulfilled.

Details of patients with screening questionnaire suggesting COPD and reduced FEV<sub>1</sub> will be recalled for diagnostic quality spirometry, which is arranged/conducted by the practices themselves.

If diagnostic quality spirometry is abnormal the practice arrange for the person to be seen by a Respiratory Nurse/GP regarding possible diagnosis of COPD and if still smoking to be given brief smoking advice and asked if they want to be referred to smoking cessation services.

All patient data is left securely with the practice.

Inclusion or omission of Chiesi products from the local formulary will have no impact on the provision of support for this project in NHS South of England - West as this is a patient centred, non-promotional service which is conditional upon no pre-determined product outcomes being stated.