Websites and Resources Available to Improve Care of COPD Patients

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Having access to accurate, practical and easily understandable information is essential to appropriately recognize, evaluate and manage chronic conditions such as COPD. Depending on the websites you choose to view, the Internet can be a useful resource for information. However, much of the online data regarding COPD is outdated, confusing and in some instances, the information is completely incorrect.

Inaccurate information may confuse patients with COPD and may perpetuate suboptimal recognition, evaluation and management of these patients by busy healthcare professionals. It may be difficult to find the time and/or resources to attend high-quality seminars with accurate and practical information. It was out of this necessity to help inform that we developed practical and accurate online resources for COPD patients, their caregivers and healthcare professionals.

Practical Resource / Website for Healthcare Professionals:

Despite advances identifying and managing patients with COPD over the last 20 years, many gaps still exist between how care should be delivered and how it is actually being provided in clinical practice. Data have shown that many COPD patients do not receive the best treatments according to current guidelines. So what can be done to help busy healthcare professionals provide the best care for their COPD patients? One solution we developed is a Web-based, Interactive Professional Education in COPD (WipeCOPD™) program (wipediseases.org). Our website helps healthcare professionals catch up on the "latest and greatest" COPD information. Teaching clinicians the best ways to treat COPD will ultimately help patients feel better, be more active and do much better overall.

The WipeCOPD™ program is divided into several sections and is designed to teach healthcare professionals (including nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and physicians) about COPD. The "A to Z" section includes 15 presentations, each lasting between 12-20 minutes, with interactive questions every 3-5 minutes. The "Clinical Learning" section includes interactions between a clinician and a COPD patient, which are facilitated to emphasize key points. The facilitated "Inhaler Demonstration" section includes videos of a patient receiving step-by-step instructions on each of the inhaler devices. The WipeCOPD™ program also includes a "Virtual Clinic" where the clinicians' questions are answered by a patient video. Healthcare professionals select the differential diagnosis, order studies and choose management options. There is a billing section that may be skipped if not applicable to the learner. Each healthcare professional is then provided with individualized feedback (video and textual), based on what was chosen in the previous tabs. The learner is able to go back and select different management options.
and the feedback section changes based on what is selected. Finally, there is a video summary, emphasizing the key points of the case.

A year of unlimited access costs a mere $150 for physicians (for up to 14 hours of continuing education credit) and $100 for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, respiratory therapists, and pharmacists. Special pricing is available for groups, students and international learners (adamssg@wipediseases.org). Funds generated go to the not-for-profit entity, WipeDiseases™ Foundation, whose mission is to provide healthcare professionals with tools to change clinical practice and improve outcomes of patients with COPD and other chronic diseases. Finally, educating healthcare professionals about the best management of COPD will help lower the risk of “flares” (acute exacerbations) and help COPD patients feel better and be more active.

Healthcare professionals who indicate on the WipeCOPD™ registration page that they learned of the site from the COPD Foundation will have 25% of their registration fee donated by the WipeDiseases Foundation to the COPD Foundation.

To learn more visit www.wippediseases.org or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

**Useful Website for COPD Patients and Their Caregivers:**

The Animated COPD Patient: An Animated Patient’s Guide to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease can be found at www.animatedcopdpatient.com. One of the main goals of this website is to provide accurate and useful information to empower patients and their caregivers to effectively deal with this potentially devastating disease. Better communication between COPD patients, their caregivers and their healthcare professionals leads to better health outcomes. The website is free to use and features brief videos on topics such as COPD symptoms, risk factors, complications, diagnosis and treatment. In addition to videos of animation, there are also videos of COPD experts and patients with COPD providing their insights and experiences. Patients and their caregivers can review the information and resources at their own leisure.

**Webinar/Resources for Caregivers of COPD Patients:**

The COPD Foundation in collaboration with Sunovion hosted a Webinar for COPD Caregivers. One hundred twelve people registered and 43 participated in the entire webinar, which featured an expert in COPD, as well as a caregiver of a patient with COPD. Some key messages that the expert and the caregiver conveyed during the webinar included the importance of maintaining a positive attitude, not rushing your loved one with COPD and making sure you take care of yourself so that you continue to be able to care for your loved one. The COPD Caregiver booklet can be downloaded at the following website: www.copdfoundation.org Click on the LEARN button for access to the Downloads Library or call the C.O.P.D. Information line at 1-866-316-COPD (2673) to request a printed booklet delivered to your home.