

# Users' guide to measuring co-morbidity in COPD

## About the initiative

- Comorbidities are common in COPD patients and have a significant impact on patients' quality of life, exacerbation frequency and survival; however, they are often under-recognized and under-treated.
- Numerous tools have been identified in the literature that measure comorbidity in chronic disease; however, health care practitioners have little guidance when measuring comorbid conditions in their COPD patients.
- The *IPCRG User's Guide* employs a succinct, descriptive approach to summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of 8 carefully selected tools which are commonly used by primary care practitioners to assess comorbidity in their COPD patients.

## Other guides

- Users' Guide to [COPD wellness tools here](#)
- Users' Guide to [asthma control tools here](#)

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## Background

- COPD is a disease with significant mortality, yet the majority of patients with this condition will die from other causes.
- COPD exacerbations and comorbidities contribute to the overall severity in individual patients.
- Approximately three quarters of COPD patients have at least 1 other co-occurring condition.
- Efforts have been made by researchers to provide informative publications that address the current challenges of measuring multimorbidities in patients with chronic disease.
- However, to date, no single contribution provides a comprehensive approach, or practical guide that lists relevant and available tools for measuring multimorbidity in patients with COPD in primary care.

## Objectives

- By condensing the research of key investigators in the field, this *User's Guide* will highlight important information for primary care practitioners.
- By providing a brief yet descriptive snapshot of each of the 8 tools, primary care practitioners will be better placed to make informed decisions. We accomplish this by condensing the descriptive information into three sections:

- 1) **Standout Feature**;
- 2) **Key Elements** or "strengths"; and
- 3) **Potential Limitations** or "weaknesses" of each of the 8 selected measures.

- Furthermore, by presenting the challenges associated with terminological consensus, and measurement design, creation and validation using this particular format, health care practitioners will be better able to select the most appropriate tool for their needs.

## Download

Download the guide, completed in June 2016, [here](#).