

Advanced COPD: The High Cost and Clinical Complexity of the Final Year of Life

Clinical Complexity and Multimorbidity

8.73

Mean Charlson Comorbidity Index

Patients average four major coexisting chemical conditions alongside their respiratory failure.

COPD is Rarely a Single-Organ Disease



The Gender Gap in Disease Profile

Men present with higher comorbidity scores, while women tend to be older at death.

Renal disease, malignancies, cardiovascular conditions significantly amplify mortality risk and procedural burden.

17,036
total events

4.74

Mean Admissions per Patient



Patients spend an average of 10.5 days in the hospital per admission.

\$6.07 Million

Total Direct Medical Costs

Hospitalization accounts for 72% (\$4.37M) of all medical spending in the final year.



72%

Hospitalization
(\$4,375,112.86)
3,863 episodes



9,495
tests

Diagnostics & Labs
9,495 tests
(\$577,530.26)



Pulmonology Services
(\$831,973.83)
3,676 events

The Palliative Care Gap



Only
7.4%
Palliative Exposure

Palliative support remains undertilted despite experiencing breathlessness and frequent crises.



Palliative care identified a clinically distinct subgroup, suggesting the need for complexity-based referral triggers.



Predominance of In-Hospital Death

Over 20% of patients die within the acute hospital setting rather than at home.