COPD

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a common, preventable and treatable disease that is characterised by persistent respiratory symptoms and airflow limitation that is due to airway and/or alveolar abnormalities usually caused by significant exposure to noxious particles or gases. COPD is not curable, but treatment can relieve symptoms, improve quality of life and reduce the risk of death.1

Risk factors2

- Smoking (no. 1)
- Second hand or passive exposure to smoke
- Exposure to indoor air pollution
- Occupational exposure to dusts and chemicals
- Frequent lower respiratory infections

Symptoms3

- Chronic and progressive shortness of breath
- Cough and mucus production
- Wheezing and chest tightness
- Infection-driven exacerbation of symptoms often speeds up decline of lung function
- Unexplained weight loss
- General fatigue

Prevalence

- COPD is currently the fourth leading cause of death in the US4 and the World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that COPD will be the third leading cause of death worldwide by 20305
- Currently the disease is largely hidden, with a large number of patients undiagnosed6

Approximately 330m people globally living with COPD7

Impact8

- Significant impact on daily activities and quality of life
- Estimated one in five sufferers give up work due to their disease
- Six out of ten patients reported feeling concern about their future earning potential as a consequence of COPD

9 out of 10 patients reported an inability to maintain their lifestyle following the onset of COPD

By 2025 the total COPD market is expected to be worth over $19bn9

Risk factors2

9 Decision Resources Pharmacor COPD (October 2016).