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Editorial Notes

Additional COPD Education and Awareness



In the last several years, there has been a surge of interest in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as reflected in increased basic and clinical research, comprehensive professional training programs in assessment and management, public awareness initiatives, and patient support groups and Web sites. This level of attention on COPD is long overdue, as COPD is currently the fourth leading cause of death in the United States—and will soon be the third.

The goal of this issue of *CE-TODAY* is to provide you with the latest knowledge and tools to advance your skills in managing your patients with COPD. I am confident that you will find the comprehensive courses within this issue a valuable tool in helping improve outcomes for patients with COPD.

As always, we welcome your feedback to ensure that *CE-TODAY* remains a trusted and valuable resource in your clinical practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matt Schambers'.

Matthew Schambers

Director of Business Development and Editorial, *CE-TODAY*

Putting the Spotlight on 'Kopid'



I know a nurse educator who works with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. At the end of a recent teaching session with a gentleman who has emphysema, he said to her, "Thank you so much for explaining what's wrong with my breathing. I'm so relieved to know that I don't have Kopid." It took my colleague a few seconds to realize that this patient had received a written handout on COPD, but not the teaching to go with it.

This is such a wonderful (and truthful!) illustration of the importance of helping patients make the transition from reading something, to understanding what it means, to actually changing health behavior.

Nurse practitioners are key healthcare professionals in improving patient care. In order to be effective, however, we too must make the transition from reading the words about COPD, to understanding what they mean, to changing our own clinical behaviors.

The courses within this comprehensive issue of *CE-TODAY* are designed to provide you with knowledge about the many different aspects of COPD so you can help your patients achieve better health outcomes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Lester'.

Margaret Lester, RN, MSN, FNP, AE-C
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