



## Screening tools for Comorbidities in COPD

Presenter: Lynard Maranan Higoy, BMR (RT), RRT, CRE, CTE

September 23, 3:00 PM Eastern

### Session Abstract

By 2020, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) will be the third cause of mortality. Extra pulmonary comorbidities influence the prognosis of patients with COPD. Tobacco smoking is a common risk factor for many comorbidities, including coronary heart disease, heart failure and lung cancer. The common ground between most of these extra pulmonary manifestations is chronic systemic inflammation. All of these diseases potentiate the morbidity of COPD, leading to increased hospitalizations and healthcare costs. They can frequently cause death, independently of respiratory failure. Comorbidities make the management of COPD difficult and need to be evaluated and treated adequately. The interactive lecture will use handouts, group, case-based approach to learn about common comorbidities that exist with patients living with COPD. Resource materials will be provided to participants to support immediate implementation into practice.

### Session Objectives

1. Describe screening tools & techniques that can help identify common comorbidities: dysphagia, frailty, metabolic syndrome, lung cancer, sleep disordered breathing, opioid induced GI dysfunction, CHF, cognitive impairment, anxiety & dysfunctional breathing.
2. Use strategies that will support treatment and/or system navigation for non-COPD issues that impair clinical stability.
3. Identify Pan-Canadian interprofessional referral practices and opportunities.

### Speaker Biography

Lynard is a community respiratory therapist in a rural community about 100 km east of Edmonton under the Alberta Health Services- Central Zone covering the counties of Minburn, Two Hills and Lamont. To keep his ventilator skills up to date, he works as a casual respiratory therapist for Capital Care Norwood Chronic Ventilator Unit in Edmonton. He has a total of 7 years of work experience as an RT with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Alberta Health Services. He graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Medical Rehabilitation in Respiratory Therapy from the University of Manitoba. Lynard is currently pursuing a graduate diploma in leadership and management through Athabasca University, Faculty of Business. His focused interests include rural respiratory therapy, Role of RRTs in Rural Stroke and Geriatric empowerment units, Rural Based Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, the role of social media on smoking cessation and Allied Health Leadership.