

# Understanding COPD

## ABOUT COPD

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** is a serious but treatable lung disease, **which is estimated to affect 210 million people worldwide**<sup>1</sup>

**COPD is the term to describe a number of conditions** including emphysema and chronic bronchitis <sup>2</sup>



In addition to cigarette smoke, exposure to pollution is an important factor that greatly **increases the risk of COPD**<sup>3</sup>

Total deaths from COPD are projected to increase by more than

**30%**  
in the next 10 years<sup>4</sup>

COPD is predicted to become the **third leading cause of death by**



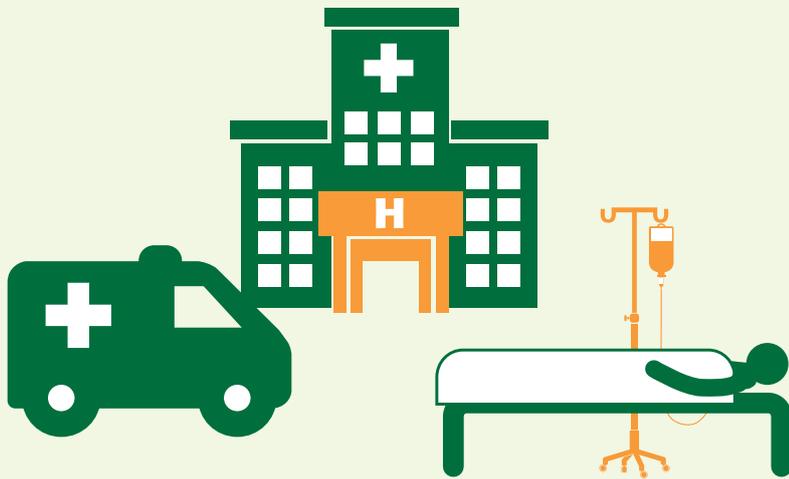
In the EU, the total costs attributed to COPD - both directly and indirectly - is estimated to be **140 billion Euros per year**<sup>5</sup>

**€140bn**



## IMPACT ON PEOPLE

**COPD is a progressive disease<sup>6</sup> that limits airflow in and out of the lungs. People with COPD suffer from breathlessness and cough with sputum<sup>2</sup>**

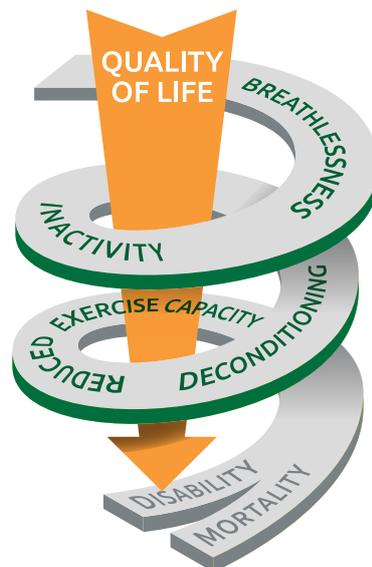


People with COPD are at risk of an exacerbation (**sudden worsening of COPD symptoms**) and need to be admitted to hospital if the exacerbation is severe<sup>7</sup>

COPD has a **significant physical and emotional impact** on those who suffer from the disease<sup>8</sup>

For most people with COPD, lung function declines at the **fastest rate earlier in the disease** – quicker than in the later stages<sup>9</sup>

Declining **lung function disrupts the patient's ability to lead a full and healthy life** and can lead to people feeling afraid, anxious, frustrated, isolated and depressed<sup>10,11</sup>



As COPD progresses lung function **continues to decline**

and physical activity becomes **severely limited,**

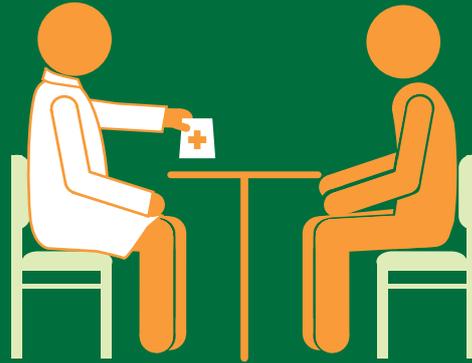
leading to the condition further **worsening**

and increasing the risk of **disability and death<sup>12</sup>**



# MANAGEMENT OF COPD

When the majority of people first go to see their doctor, their disease has already progressed to a point when they need maintenance treatment<sup>6,7</sup>



Loss of lung function is accelerated and therefore more relevant in the early stages of COPD. Therefore physicians should consider intervening as early on as possible in the disease with the **best possible treatment**<sup>9</sup>

As COPD can't be cured, the **key goals of management** are to limit symptoms, reduce the risk of exacerbations, help people keep as active as possible and overall, improve their quality of life<sup>13</sup>



## References

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<sup>S3</sup> FORVENT® Capsules for Inhalation. Each capsule contains 18 µg tiotropium equivalent to 22,5 µg tiotropium bromide monohydrate. Reg. No.: 36/10.2.1/0045. For full prescribing information refer to the package insert approved by the Medicines Regulatory Authority. Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd, 407 Pine Avenue, Randburg. Tel. No. +27 (011) 348 2400. Cpy. Reg. No. 1966/008618/07. BI Ref. No. GPM-FRV-0044-ZA

