

## Prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed COPD in Wirral by practice: July 2012

COPD is an umbrella term which includes conditions such as chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The main risk factor for COPD is smoking and around 9 out of 10 cases of COPD are directly caused by smoking. Repeated hospital admissions are common in people with COPD due to the progressive nature of the condition and acute episodes where the condition worsens (caused by factors such as cold weather and 'flu).

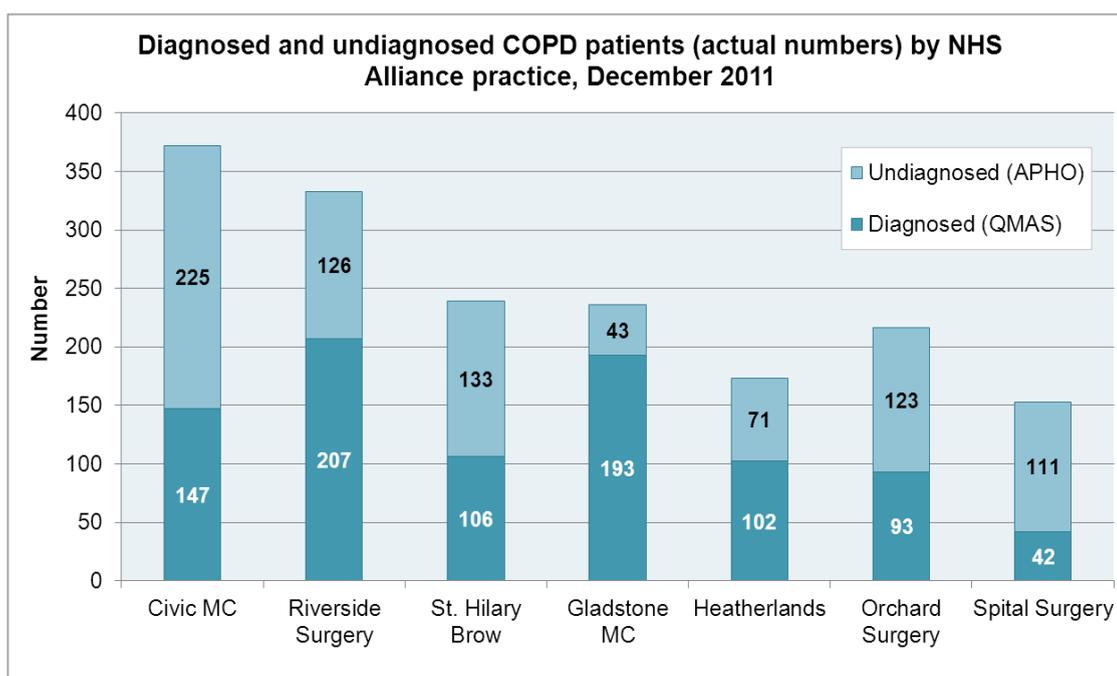
Reducing the likelihood of admissions through improved management is only possible if people are diagnosed and supported to manage their condition. There will however, always be a proportion of the population who have COPD, but are not yet diagnosed because they have not been to see their GP or do not recognise or report symptoms. Modelled estimates can be used to gauge how many people might fall into this category locally.

The model used here combines age, gender and smoking status of the population as well as ethnicity and deprivation to calculate an estimate of the number of people likely to have COPD. The model was developed by the Association of Public Health Observatory's (APHO) and last updated in December 2011.

In this briefing, the estimated prevalence of COPD has been compared to the actual prevalence (recorded by the QOF monitoring system, QMAS) for the three Wirral consortia.

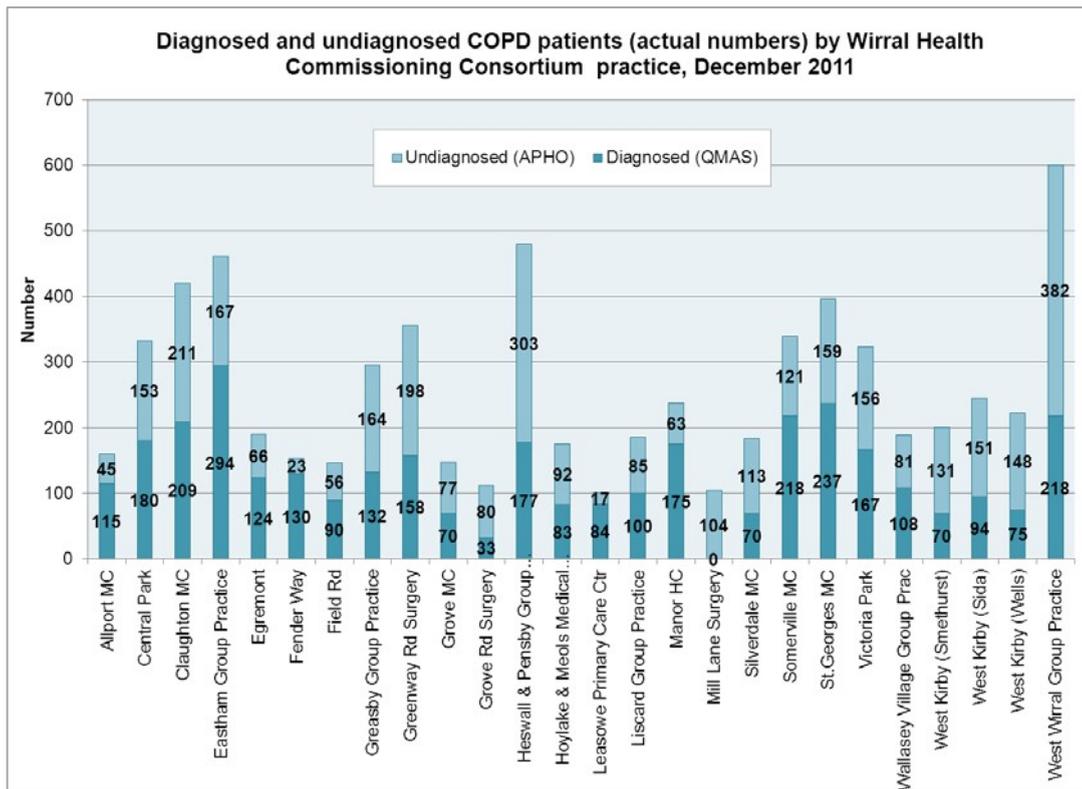
Figures 1-3 below show the actual number of patients on the QOF COPD register (from QMAS) for each practice, plus the number APHO indicate are likely to be undiagnosed by practice.

**Figure 1: Diagnosed and undiagnosed COPD patients, NHS Alliance practices, December 2011**



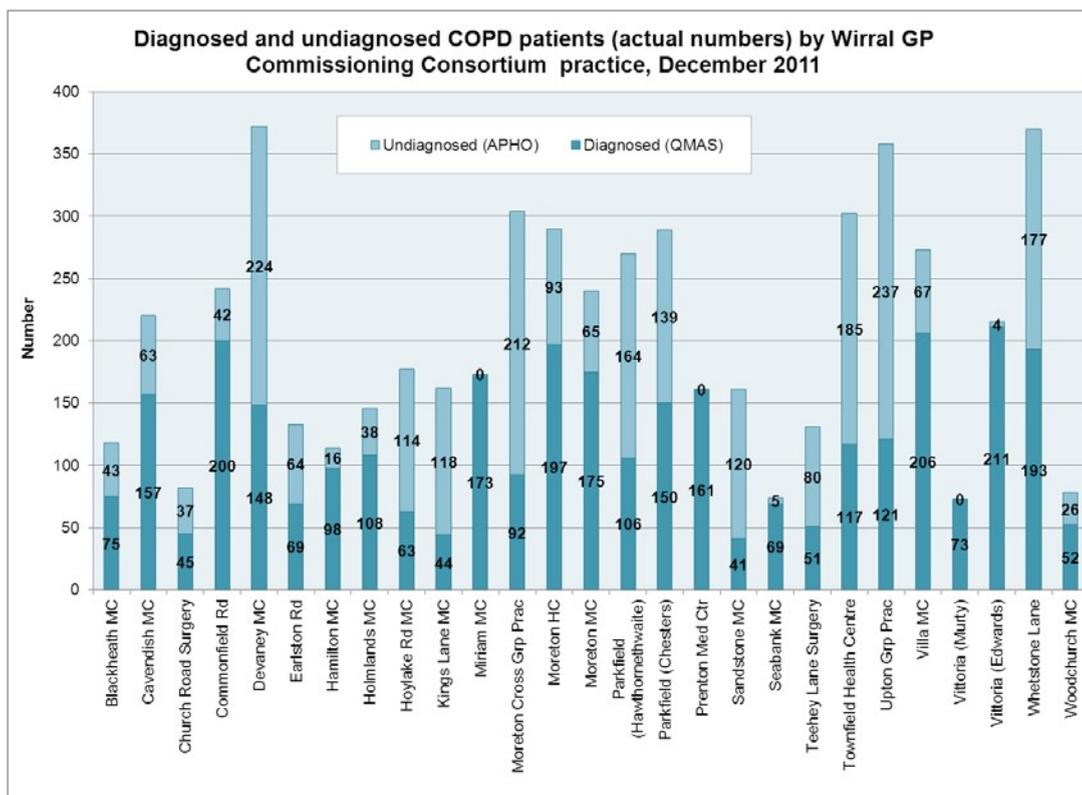
As Figure 1 shows, the number of patients likely to have COPD but be undiagnosed in the NHS Alliance practices varies from 225 to 43. The total number of estimated undiagnosed patients in the consortia is 832.

**Figure 2: Diagnosed and undiagnosed COPD patients, Wirral Health Commissioning Consortium (WHCC), December 2011**



As Figure 2 shows, the number of patients likely to have COPD but be undiagnosed in WHCC practices varies from 382 to 0. The number of undiagnosed patients in the consortia is estimated to be 3,346, compared to 3,411 people currently on QOF COPD registers in the practices.

**Figure 3: Diagnosed and undiagnosed COPD patients, Wirral Health Commissioning Consortium (WGPC), December 2011**



As Figure 3 shows, the number of patients likely to have COPD but be undiagnosed in WGPC practices varies from 237 to 0. The number of undiagnosed patients in the consortia is estimated to be 2,333, compared to 3,195 people currently on QOF COPD registers in the practices.

**Key Message:** There are likely to be around 6,500 people in Wirral who have COPD, but are undiagnosed.