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Press Release



For Immediate Release

World COPD Day 18 November 2009

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease is a serious lung condition that affects one in 10 people over 40 years old¹.

Caused by smoking, exposure to fumes and dusty areas, COPD leads to shortness of breath, coughing and bringing up phlegm and mucus².

There is no cure, however COPD can be treated to better manage the condition.

Internationally, telehealth is being used to assist people to manage their condition in the home and reduce emergency hospital admissions.

Telehealth requires a monitoring unit that prompts patients to take their vital signs and answer a series of health related questions to be installed in the home.

The collected data is transmitted to a monitoring centre where it is assessed, with abnormal readings passed on to the patient's doctor for immediate action and follow up.

The timely and ongoing transmission of patient information improves patient care, helps to prioritise patients on a need basis and reduces emergency hospital admissions and duration of hospital stay.

Telehealth provider Tunstall Healthcare has conducted numerous pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of telehealth in the management of chronic conditions including COPD.

In a pilot project conducted by Tunstall Healthcare in Sheffield UK, Sheffield Primary Care Trust reported a 50% decrease in COPD hospital admissions and massive cost savings.

Similarly, in Medway UK, patients reported improved understanding of their condition and symptoms.

According to Barbara Mead, Medway Primary Care Trust's assistant director for adult and integrated community services, telehealth is the way forward to help people with long term conditions.

The adoption of telehealth in Australia has been slow. In the near future it will provide an avenue to improve the quality of life of people living with COPD.

¹ <http://www.goldcopd.com/PlanYourWorldCOPDDayEvent.asp?l1=3&l2=2> 'The Burden of COPD'

² <http://www.goldcopd.com/PlanYourWorldCOPDDayEvent.asp?l1=3&l2=2> 'What is COPD'

To find out more about World COPD Day visit www.goldcopd.com.

To find out more about Tunstall telehealth visit www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au or call 1300 760 333.

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If you require any additional information or images please contact Lauren Tucker, Marketing Coordinator 07 3637 2200, lauren.tucker@tunstallap.com
For more product information, case studies and latest news visit tunstallhealthcare.com.au

About Tunstall Healthcare

With over 2.5 million users globally, Tunstall is the market leading provider of telecare and telehealth solutions. Across Australia Tunstall's solutions support older people and those with long term needs to live independently, by effectively managing their health and wellbeing. Tunstall provides technology, expertise and advice to millions of people enabling them to lead independent more fulfilling lives. For more information on how telecare and telehealth can improve quality of life, visit www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au