

## **COPD Exacerbation**

### **Definition**

An event in the natural course of the disease characterized by a change in the patient's baseline dyspnea, cough, and/or sputum and beyond normal day-to-day variations, that is acute in onset and may warrant a change in regular medication in a patient with underlying COPD.

### **Disposition**

Generally admitted to GIM. There are minimal Bipap beds available on GIM so respiratory should be considered if non-invasive ventilatory support is required. Patient's requiring invasive mechanical ventilation will be admitted to the GSICU.

### **Caveats**

If the patient has a respirologist who is following them in the community, they should be admitted to pulmonary.

(Continued...)

### Flowchart

