

Core outcome set for pulmonary rehabilitation of patients with COPD

Citation for published version (APA):

Souto-Miranda, S. (2023). *Core outcome set for pulmonary rehabilitation of patients with COPD*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University, Universidade de Aveiro]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230616sm>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2023

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20230616sm](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230616sm)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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Summary of thesis

Core outcome set for pulmonary rehabilitation of patients with COPD

This thesis defined a core outcome set - a minimum set of outcomes that should always be measured and reported – for pulmonary rehabilitation of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). These core outcomes can increase study comparability and therefore drawing of robust conclusions regarding the effects of this intervention. Furthermore, together with other indicators, the core outcome set might also enable benchmarking pulmonary rehabilitation and ensuring quality of programmes delivered to people with COPD. Other potential benefits of establishing a minimum set of assessments (the work embedded in this thesis), are the increase in transparency of results to patients, pulmonary rehabilitation centres and payers, and the better understanding of patient responses to this therapy. This thesis combined both quantitative and qualitative research methods and had an active involvement of different stakeholders, such as people with COPD, informal caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers and policy makers.