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LONG TERM OXYGEN THERAPY SYMPOSIUM: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

The Symposium for Effective Oxygen Therapy

Course Directors Dr. Nicholas S. Hill and Barry Make lead a faculty of renowned clinicians and practitioners in the area of long term oxygen therapy (LTOT) at this exciting new Symposium. Approximately 1.4 million patients in the United States receive LTOT and a reported 1 million are Medicare beneficiaries with an estimated cost of \$2.93 billion. The majority of these patients have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) – which is the fastest growing “large” disease fueled by the baby boomer demographic growth and the incidence of smoking within that generation.

This 1 ½ day Symposium addresses the clinical evidence on LTOT, and will weigh the evidence to separate the “fact” from the “fiction” in the transitional process of patient care – transitioning the patient receiving oxygen in the hospital to receiving oxygen in the homecare environment. Practice management publications have discussed and stressed the pitfalls associated with LTOT, namely: therapy recommendations are well-defined, but not consistently followed; nearly half of patients do not receive routine medical care; strong concern that underuse of the therapy increases the risk of hospitalization; comprehensive patient education is lacking; more health-care resource use and increased mortality may result from these pitfalls.

Competitive bidding and capped rental confound the therapeutic options for oxygen patients and complicate the already-complex patient. Notwithstanding the reimbursement outlook, clinical evidence is still recognized as what should be the critical factor in prescribing oxygen therapy for COPD patients. Physicians’ involvement in managing and monitoring patients receiving LTOT is challenged as optimal LTOT is not being properly understood or taught. Oxygen delivery devices are proliferative with no standards, and subsequently it is understandable that clinicians may fall short in their ability to prescribe the optimal therapy.

It has been often said “If one can identify the real problem, one identifies who is really responsible for correcting the problem.” This Symposium focuses on separating fact from fiction by using lectures and hands-on workshops - with oxygen delivery devices used in the homecare environment - to identify and address the underlying clinical problems which create pitfalls for prescribing LTOT. Recently, there is new thought which suggests that clinical factors can be linked in a more efficient way to reimbursement by examining the impact on re-hospitalizations and the initiation of a collaborative care model. These potential new models of chronic care delivery are funded in healthcare reform law: re-hospitalizations and quality incentives provide an opportunity to tie together acute care, home care and the organizations in the pathway – this Symposium, unlike some other oxygen programs of the past focused on reimbursement, will focus on the opportunities and the clinical evidence.

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Tufts University School of Medicine Office of Continuing Education and GanESCO, Inc. are the sponsors of this symposium and GanESCO is the event management company. Eleven hours of continuing education credits (CRCE and *AMA PRA Category One Credits™*) are offered. If you would like more information, or to schedule an interview with Drs. Hill or Make, please call Ms. Nunley at 931.284.9033 or email Ms. Nunley at nancyn@ganESCO.com; detailed information about the Symposium can be found at www.ganESCO.com.