



COPD ACTION PLAN

Patients and health care providers should complete this action plan together. This plan should be discussed at each visit and updated as needed.

The **green**, **yellow**, and **red** zones show symptoms of COPD. The list of symptoms is not complete. You may experience other symptoms. In the "Actions" column, your health care provider will recommend actions for you to take. Your health care provider may write down other actions in addition to those listed here.

Green Zone: I am doing well today

Actions

- Usual activity and exercise level
 - Usual amounts of cough and phlegm/mucus
 - Sleep well at night
 - Appetite is good
- ☐ Take daily medicines
 - ☐ Use oxygen as prescribed
 - ☐ Continue regular exercise/diet plan
 - ☐ Avoid tobacco product use and other inhaled irritants
 - ☐ _____

Yellow Zone: I am having a bad day or a COPD flare

Actions

- More breathless than usual
 - I have less energy for my daily activities
 - Increased or thicker phlegm/mucus
 - Using quick relief inhaler/nebulizer more often
 - More swelling in ankles
 - More coughing than usual
 - I feel like I have a "chest cold"
 - Poor sleep and my symptoms woke me up
 - My appetite is not good
 - My medicine is not helping
- ☐ Continue daily medication
 - ☐ Use quick relief inhaler every _____ hours
 - ☐ Start an oral corticosteroid (*specify name, dose, and duration*)

 - ☐ Start an antibiotic (*specify name, dose, and duration*)

 - ☐ Use oxygen as prescribed
 - ☐ Get plenty of rest
 - ☐ Use pursed lip breathing
 - ☐ Avoid secondhand smoke, e-cigarette aerosol, and other inhaled irritants
 - ☐ Call provider immediately if symptoms do not improve
 - ☐ _____

Red Zone: I need urgent medical care

Actions

- Severe shortness of breath even at rest
 - Not able to do any activity because of breathing
 - Not able to sleep because of breathing
 - Fever or shaking chills
 - Feeling confused or very drowsy
 - Chest pains
 - Coughing up blood
- ☐ Call 911 or seek medical care immediately
 - ☐ While getting help, immediately do the following:
 - ☐ _____

The information contained in this document is for educational use only. It should not be used as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

Adapted from American Lung Association, My COPD Action Plan. <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/c7657648-a30f-4465-af92-fc762411922e/FY22-ALA-COPD-Action-Plan-with-QR-codes.pdf>.



To access this tool and other clinical resources online, visit
www.ExchangeCME.com/COPDBridgeResources