



# Respiratory Clinical Assessment Service (RCAS) Information Leaflet

**Respiratory Clinical Assessment Service contact number and working hours:**

- 01482 675035
- 8am – 4:30pm 7 days a week

**If you feel unwell outside of these hours, please call 111 or in an emergency dial 999.**

## The Respiratory Clinical Assessment Service

If you are having an exacerbation (or 'flare-up') of your COPD you can contact the Respiratory Clinical Assessment Service on 01482 675035.

### ***What is the Respiratory Clinical Assessment Service (RCAS)?***

RCAS is a team of specialist respiratory nurses and physiotherapists who are supported by hospital consultants that specialise in COPD and other chest problems. The RCAS Team look after people with COPD that are having an exacerbation/flare-up, both in hospital and at home. The RCAS Team aim to see people either the same day or the next day after they get in-touch, ensuring timely assessment and access to treatment and support at home.

### ***When should I get in touch with RCAS?***

If you have noticed an increase in your COPD symptoms and think you are developing an exacerbation/flare-up that isn't settling with your usual treatment, you can get in-touch with the RCAS Team for an assessment. You can contact the team on the above number between 8am and 4.30pm, 7-days a week.

### ***What will happen when I get in touch with RCAS?***

When you contact the team you will be put through to an experienced nurse or physiotherapist. They will take some initial details over the telephone about you and your condition and unless they feel you need emergency treatment, they will arrange for you to be seen by a member of the team at home within 24 hours of you getting in-touch.





The RCAS Team will discuss your treatment plan with you and will provide any medications and/or equipment you need to help you recover. You will be given instructions on what to do if you feel unwell. You will be asked to monitor your symptoms until they have improved to a point that the RCAS team are happy you are well enough to stop doing this. Most people will feel better within 2 weeks but everybody is different and the RCAS team will be able to answer any questions that you have during your recovery.

The RCAS Team will also let your GP know what treatments you have had and any suggested changes to your treatment in the future.

