# A Healthcare Provider (HCP) Guide

CERT
COPD Exacerbation Recognition Tool

The CERT is an educational tool that provides simple visual guidance for patients to help them recognize their symptoms and seek medical attention when needed.

GLOBAL ALLERGY & AIRWAYS PATIENT PLATFORM

https://gaapp.org/cert

## Why use the CERT?

People with COPD frequently do not report COPD exacerbations. This delays treatment, which slows recovery time and prevents the HCP knowing the true frequency of the patient's exacerbations.

## How to use the CERT in clinical practice

**1.** COPD

Use as a stand-alone educational tool or as part of a COPD self-management plan.

**2.** ASK QUESTIONS

Start with key explanations to patient

- Exacerbations are important and should not be ignored. If treated earlier, patients recover faster.
- HCPs need to know if patients are having exacerbations, because their maintenance treatment may need to be modified.

**3.** ⩾2 SYMPTOMS

Introduce CERT and explain that if patient has 2 or more symptoms that have got **moderately or severely worse** (i.e. score in the red boxes), they should seek medical attention.

**4.** CERT

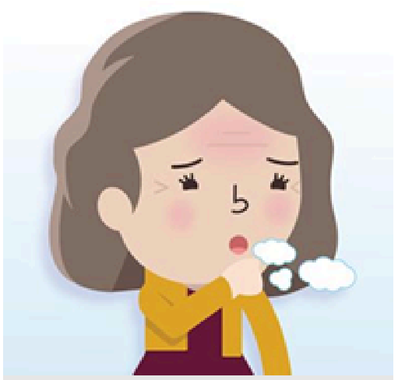
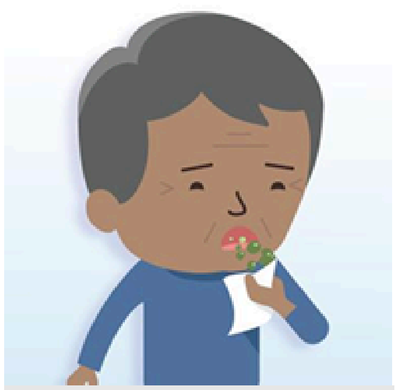
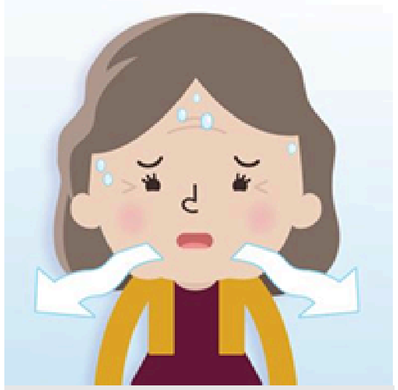
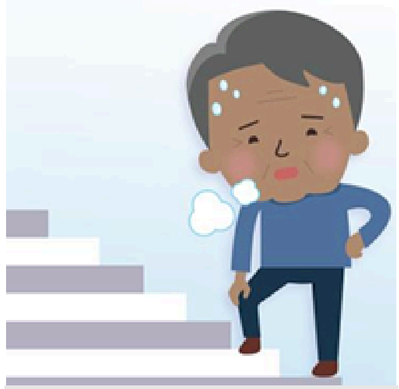
Give them a copy of the CERT to keep – in whatever format/language the patient prefers.

## FAQ

- **How often should patients complete the CERT?** Only when they think their symptoms have gotten worse.
- **What if a patient feels worse but their score is not worse?** They should still contact their HCP.
- **Where local medical practice includes the prescription of a "rescue pack" to be used at the patient's discretion when they get worse, can the CERT help patients decide whether to use their pack?** Yes – but they should inform the HCP at their next routine visit that they have done so.
- **Is the CERT a Clinical Outcome Measure/PRO?** No, at this time it is an educational tool to support the recognition of COPD exacerbations.

# CERT (COPD Exacerbation Recognition Tool)

**Select the most accurate description for you today compared with your usual state.**

| Worsening cough | Increased volume of sputum | Shortness of breath | Labored breathing | Limitation of activity |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| As usual | As usual | As usual | As usual | As usual |
| Mild | Mild | Mild | Mild | Mild |
| Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| Severe | Severe | Severe | Severe | Severe |

If you **choose at least 2 items in red** you are probably experiencing a COPD exacerbation, and should visit your doctor.

GSK31121 – United States/English – ICON.
CERT_AU1.0_engUSori.docx

**For translations and additional information, visit** **https://gaapp.org/cert**