A PATH TO BREATHING BETTER

People diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) know that it is a serious and debilitating condition requiring ongoing medical attention. But many do not realize that pulmonary rehabilitation may help them live and breathe better. This therapy is most effective when started in the moderate stage of COPD—but even people who have advanced stage lung disease can benefit.

HELPS TO

- Reduce COPD symptoms
- Increase physical activity
- Improve daily life function
- Improve emotional health

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Before you can start pulmonary rehabilitation, a health care provider will assess your health status and develop a customized plan based on your:

- Physical well-being
- Emotional well-being
- Food intake & nutrition

2 in 3 patients who participate in pulmonary rehabilitation report positive outcomes.1

ALONG THE WAY

Once your program begins, you will work with experts, usually in an outpatient hospital or clinic. In-home programs are also available.

Doctors and nurses help you better manage your COPD and avoid things that make it worse.

Respiratory therapists teach breathing strategies to open airways, expand lungs, and increase airflow.

Exercise specialists help improve endurance and muscle strength, giving you the stamina to carry out daily activities better.

Physical therapists teach you energy-conserving techniques and ways to breathe easier.

Dietitians offer nutritional counseling and eating plans to help manage your weight and enhance muscle mass.

Respiratory therapists teach breathing strategies to open airways, expand lungs, and increase airflow.

WHEN YOUR PROGRAM ENDS

Most pulmonary rehabilitation programs last a few months. Your progress at the end will be measured against how you functioned at the start. Your health care provider will then prescribe exercises, breathing strategies, and other activities to do on your own.

After your program, you should experience:

- Increased physical activity
- Reduced COPD symptoms
- Improved quality of life

If there is little to no improvement, talk with your health care provider about an alternative therapy.

MORE THAN 90% of patients who undergo pulmonary rehabilitation spend fewer days in the hospital.2

COPD PATIENTS ARE 85% more likely to develop anxiety disorders.3

SOURCES

