HIPS/19/27 - Tailored intervention at home for patients with moderate - very severe COPD and co-morbidities by pharmacists and consultant physicians (TICC PCP): pilot randomised control trial

People with moderate-to-severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are so breathless that they need to stop for breath when walking at their own pace. At home, when breathing gets worse e.g. due to infection, hospitalisation often results. Frequent adjustment of medicines for COPD and other medical conditions improves breathing and reduces hospitalisations however; home-based check-ups for breathing and medicines are uncommon. Our preliminary research has shown that pharmacist home-visits, undertaken with the support of the patient's GP and chest physician, can help ensure that patients are on the right medication and through so doing reduce the risk of a flare-up of COPD and associated hospital admission. We now want to build on this work to see if pharmacist home-visits are safe and effective for patients and the NHS. But we first need a small-scale pilot study in which some patients get pharmacist home-visits and compare this with patients who do not get home-visits. If the results are promising, and patients tell us the visits help them, we plan to run a trial big enough to test whether pharmacist home-visits improve patient outcomes and reduce hospital admissions for COPD.