

Dear Colleague,

You are invited to participate in the educational project, "The COPD Learning Collaborative". Because the National Institutes of Health sponsors this project and we will study if the training impacts patients' outcomes, we need to include a specific IRB paragraph (*in italics*). However, this course is not different from the usual online courses that you take.

To participate, please register and complete the 1.5-hour course titled: "Practical algorithm for noninvasive ventilation use in patients with COPD – Teamwork as a Recipe for Success." You will receive 1.5 free continuing education credits for your specialty. You will need to complete a Post-Course Evaluation and a Quiz as required by our accrediting councils: the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), and American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

This project may not benefit you directly; however, the benefits to participating could include: decreasing your hospital's readmission rates, costs, and hospital length of stay for patients hospitalized for COPD, and lowering their intubation rates. There is minimal risk in participating in this training course. Still, there is always the risk that your responses and attitudes will be known by your co-workers if or when you discuss the course with your colleagues, which may make you uncomfortable. When you create an account with Baystate Education to register for the course, EthosCE, (a secure data management system) you will need to record your information (email, name, address, and professional license); this is necessary for us to provide you with the continuing education credits. Only the research team will have access to this information. The COPD-Champions at your hospital will know if you completed the training such that they don't resend the invitation for the course; we will not report to them any other information collected by Ethos. By creating an account and taking the course: "Practical algorithm for noninvasive ventilation use in patients with COPD – Teamwork as a Recipe for Success" in the COPD Clinicians Group, you are consenting to participate in this educational research project with the understanding that you are free to withdraw at any time. If at any time you wish to discontinue your participation, you may contact the principal investigator of the study, Mihaela Stefan, at (413)794-0303 or mihaela.stefan@baystatehealth.org, and it will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Dr. Mihaela Stefan, the Principal Investigator. If you wish to discuss your rights as a research participant or wish to speak with someone not directly involved in this study, please contact the Baystate Medical Center Institutional Review Board at (413)794-4356.

To register, please follow these steps:

1. Click on this [link](#) to be directed to the course and register for an account.
2. Have your professional license number handy and enter your mobile phone number (not your office number); you can not get your continuing education credits without this information.

Sincerely,

Mihaela Stefan, MD, Ph.D.

