



## BETTER BREATHING

**Better Breathing will re-configure the care pathway for managing patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) by implementing ICT (Information and Communication Technology) supported home hospital services. The potential is two-fold: clinical improvements (better care pathway) and economical gain (more cost-efficient care).**

The population in Europe is ageing and elderly people have a higher frequency of chronic diseases. This poses an increasing burden on health and social service delivery systems. Therefore there is an urgent need to improve strategies and tools for the management of chronic diseases.

The Better Breathing project has as its overall goal to bridge the social, medical, research and ICT sectors to market validate the use of ICT systems to provide solutions to these societal and human problems.

Furthermore, the objectives of Better Breathing are to:

- Reduce the length of hospital admissions for COPD patients
- Create a process and a technological model that will open the way for a more coherent treatment of COPD patients
- Provide COPD patients with the best possible treatment
- Improve COPD patients' quality of life
- High quality cost-efficient healthcare services
- Open the way for greater inter-organisational learning and to liberate service resources

In Better Breathing, ICT tools will make it possible to monitor (eCare) as well as train and rehabilitate chronic patients at home (eRehabilitation). Home rehabilitation services will reduce the cost and inconvenience of transporting severely sick people from their home to the training facilities. In addition, Better Breathing will set up an online facility (ePatient Community) where COPD patients can communicate with other COPD patients. Finally, an eLearning aspect will be added to the Better Breathing services as a way of providing an educational service for patients which will assist them in handling their disease. All in all, Better Breathing offers a better quality of life for COPD patients.

The Better Breathing services will be tested in four European countries: Denmark, Norway, Catalonia - Spain and Wales - UK.

The Better Breathing Consortium consists of partners from 5 European countries and it comprises technological partners, research institutions, healthcare authorities and providers as well as market development specialists.

<b>EU Funding</b>	€ 949.749
<b>Duration</b>	June 2007 – November 2008
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