GOLD REPORT 2026 KEY CHANGES SUMMARY

Document Layout, References & Figures

In total **330 new references** have been added to the GOLD 2026 report as listed alphabetically at the end of this document. PubMed links (where available) have been included in the reference list.

In the 2026 revision of the GOLD report several changes have been made as follows:

- The chapters included in the 2026 document are as follows:
  - **Chapter 1: Definition and Overview**
  - **Chapter 2: Diagnosis and Assessment**
  - **Chapter 3: Prevention and Management of COPD**
  - **Chapter 4: Management of Exacerbations**
  - **Chapter 5: COPD and Comorbidities**
  - **Chapter 6: Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in COPD**
- In total 14 new figures have been introduced for 2026 as listed in the 'Table of Figures' below and denoted by an asterisk*. In addition, many of the existing figures have been edited and updated.

Key Changes

i. In Chapter 1 the section on the **Burden of COPD** has been updated with the latest epidemiological statistics and references.

ii. In Chapter 2 the **Screening and Case-finding** section has been updated and two new figures have been added (**Figures 2.8 and 2.9**)

iii. **Vaccination Recommendations** for people with COPD have been updated with the latest information on RSV and influenza vaccination.

iv. The criteria defining **GOLD A, B and E categories have been adjusted** due to emerging evidence from observational studies that even one moderate or severe exacerbation prior to initiating maintenance pharmacological therapy increases the risk of subsequent events (**Figure 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9**). The threshold of one moderate exacerbation should now be used to consider treatment escalation, with the aim of achieving a low disease activity state characterized by no exacerbations.

v. A new section on **Disease Activity** has been included in the report.

vi. **The Management Cycle** and **Treatment Algorithms** in **Chapter 3** have been further clarified to emphasize the distinction between **INITIAL** pharmacological treatment (for treatment naïve COPD patients) versus **FOLLOW-UP** pharmacological treatment (for patients on existing pharmacological treatment regimens) as shown in updated **Figures 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9**.

vii. A new **Figure 3.11** has been added to outline the evidence for the use of **Biologic Therapy** in COPD.

viii. **Chapter 4 – Exacerbations of COPD** has been completely revised, and new figures have been introduced.

ix. **Chapter 5 – Multimorbidity in COPD** has been completely revised, and new figures have been introduced.

x. A new **Chapter 6 – Emerging Technology and COPD** has been added.

xi. **The GOLD Report has been re-structured** with a significant amount of text and figures moved to Appendices 1-4 to improve flow and clarity and reduce repetition.

xii. A **Table of Abbreviations** has been included, and abbreviations are being used throughout

the report to improve readability.

xiii. **References** have been checked and updated throughout the document.

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NEW REFERENCES ADDED

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