

Time Line	Standard COPD Service (Control)	Tele-health Supported COPD Service
First home visit after hospital discharge (Baseline (time 0))	(a) (b) (c) [d] [e]	(a) (b) (c) (g) [d] [e]
Randomisation		
1 day		[l]
2 days	(a) (c)	
4 days	(f) (c) (g) [i]	
14 days	(f) (h) [j]	[m]
6 weeks	(f) (h) [j]	
8 weeks	(f) (h) (c) [e] [j] (k)	(f) (h) (c) [e] [j] (k) [n]
8 months	Measurement of outcomes	

(a)	Clinical assessment of stability and coping with discharge by COPD clinicians (part of standard clinical intervention)
(b)	Social assessment (part of standard clinical intervention)
(c)	Patient education / self management session (duration unspecified) - (part of standard clinical intervention)
[d]	Clinician to seek written consent from patient (see appendix 2 for copy of consent form)
[e]	St. George's Respiratory Questionnaire on health status and quality of life completed by patient
(f)	Clinical assessment - (part of standard clinical intervention)
(g)	Patient self-management plan put in place - (part of standard clinical intervention)
(h)	Patient self-management assessed - (part of standard clinical intervention)
[i]	Self-report diary for health resource use explained to the patient by the clinician and implemented (see appendices 4a, b and c for diary sheets)
[j]	Review of self-diary resource use by research staff
(k)	Patient discharged from the clinical programme if determined stable by clinical staff - (part of standard clinical intervention)
[l]	Tele-health equipment installed in patient's home by Local Authority installer and training provided
[m]	Tele-health alert parameters reviewed and adjusted remotely by admin/clerical staff as directed by clinicians
[n]	Tele-health service satisfaction questionnaire completed by patient