Course content:
This multi-professional course focuses upon the assessment and management of the individual with COPD within the context of the wider community. Importance is placed on a patient centred approach, the health needs of the individual, health promotion and self-empowerment whilst acknowledging the professional, political and social climate within which services are provided.

On completion of the course, successful learners will be able to suggest, initiate and vary treatment in response to individual needs. They will demonstrate sound knowledge of the literature relevant to COPD and an insight into the strategic approaches to delivery of care, to enable them to take a lead on the development of services.

Knowledge and understanding:
Successful learners will typically be able to:
1. Analyse the pathophysiology of COPD with particular reference to examining the factors which increase the risk of developing COPD;
2. Analyse the impact of social, economic and environmental factors upon the development of COPD and critically appraise this in relation to the provision of care;
3. Critically analyse current national and international guidelines and other drivers for COPD care and synthesise findings to their own area of work including patients with co-morbidities or complex needs;
4. Evaluate, appropriately select and effectively use decision making tools available to assess disability and health status in COPD patients in relation to specific patient situations, including management of the acute exacerbation and admission avoidance.

Skills and attributes:
Successful learners will typically be able to:
1. Interpret patient history and clinical data (including spirometry) in order to comprehensively assess patients with COPD, consider differential diagnosis, and to plan and implement patient care appropriately across a range of healthcare settings reflecting shared decision-making;
2. Develop and evaluate care strategies that promote health and assist in the prevention of physical and psychosocial complications associated with COPD;
3. Critically examine both pharmacological and strategic management strategies relating to acute exacerbations of COPD;
4. Critically appraise the development of services for people with COPD in all healthcare settings;
5. Critically appraise the role of the multidisciplinary team in organisation and delivery of care for people with COPD, their carers and families and evaluate their own role within the team.