Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Signs, Symptoms, and Effects

What is COPD?
A group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing problems

INCLUDES EMPHYSEMA AND CHRONIC BRONCHITIS

What are the symptoms of COPD?
- CHRONIC OR SMOKER'S COUGH
- CHRONIC PHLEGM PRODUCTION
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- WHEEZING

How does COPD affect people's lives?
- Difficulty with physical activities like walking and climbing stairs
- May not be able to work
- Hard to engage in social activities like eating out, going to places of worship, or getting together with friends or neighbors
- Increased confusion, memory loss, depression, or other mental or emotional conditions
- More emergency room visits or overnight hospital stays

If you have any symptoms of COPD, discuss them with your doctor. Early diagnosis and treatment can help. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/copd.