

## GP DIRECT ACCESS TO SPIROMETRY TO IMPROVE CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

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### INTRODUCTION

Early access to spirometry by general practitioners (GPs) is a key part of the respiratory integrated programme. We illustrate the successful rollout of GP direct access to spirometry in the Galway City Integrated Care hub. Equitable and timely access to spirometry allows an early diagnosis of COPD and asthma to be made which, subsequently allows GP to manage chronic respiratory diseases in the community.

Net/list	Average of Length of time from referral to spiro (days)
GP4	27
GP5	27
GP6	50
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>33</b>

Table 1: Average length of referral time to date of spirometry based on CHN

### Legend

CHO2 Networks & Primary Care Teams

- CHO2-1
- CHO2-2
- CHO2-3
- CHO2-4
- CHO2-5
- CHO2-6
- CHO2-7
- CHO2-8
- CHO2-9

Inset shows Galway City

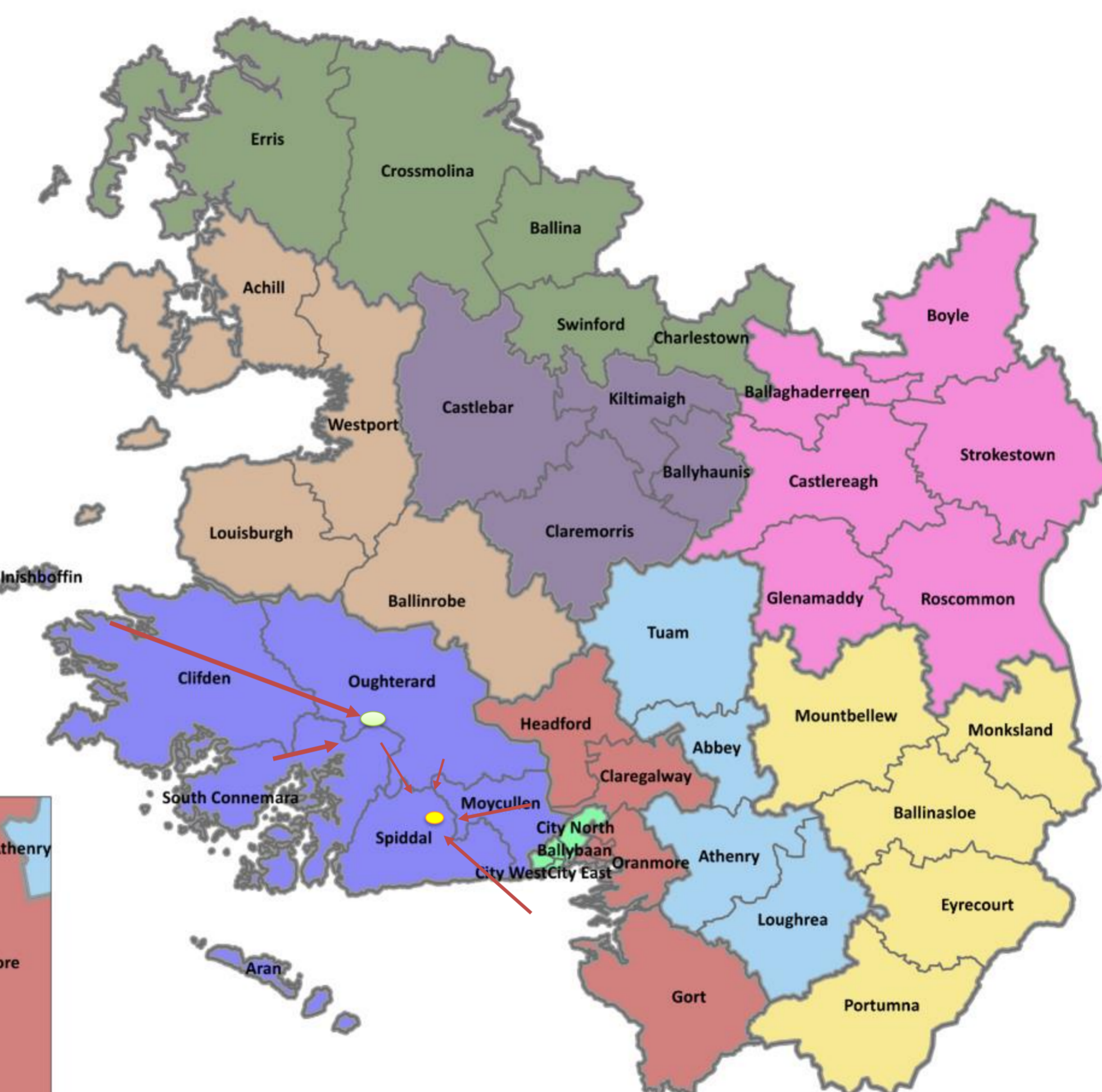


Figure 1: Map overview of CHO 2. Integrated Care Hub for CHN 4 is Moycullen and CHN 5 & 6 is City West.

### Percentage distribution of 'Complaint'

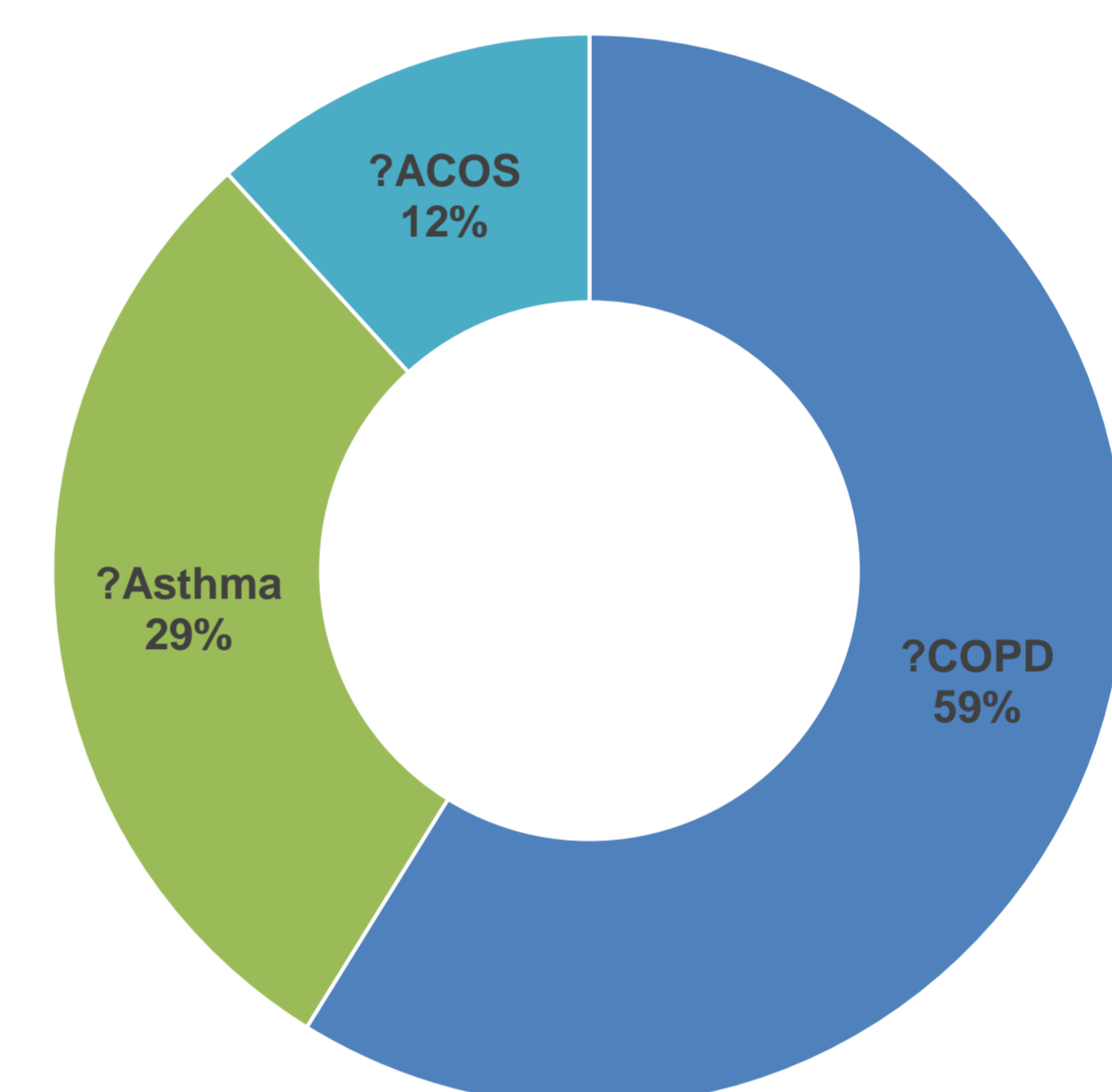


Figure 2

### Distribution of Spirometry Results

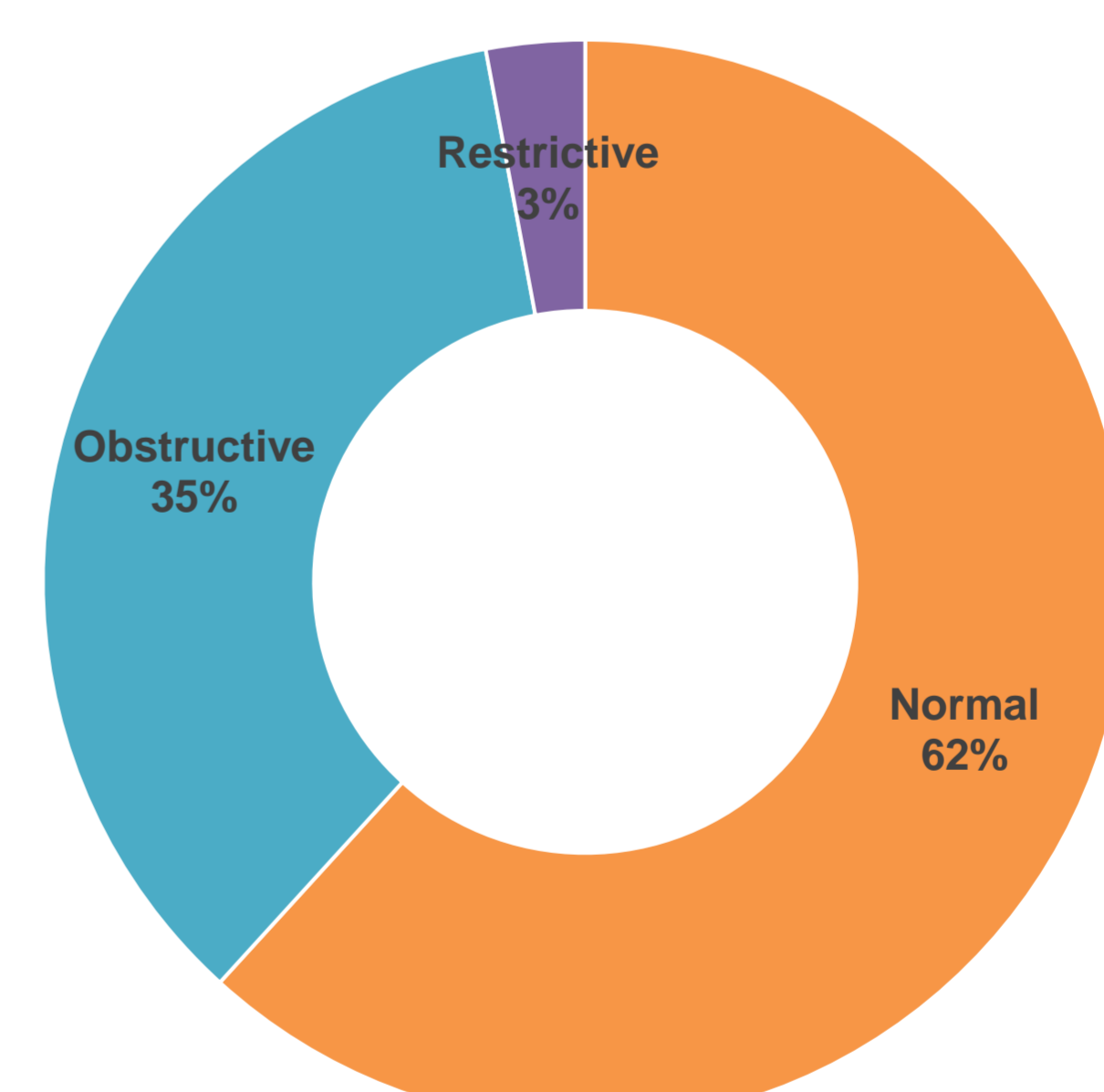


Figure 3

### METHODS

Overall governance and working pathways were established. Electronic patient records (EPR) from May 2023 – July 2023 of those referred for spirometry from GPs in Galway City Hub were reviewed. Galway City integrated care hub encompasses community health networks (CHNs) 4,5 and 6 (figure 1). We used Excel spreadsheet to collect data of referral date, date of spirometry done, date of report patient location, if reversibility done, technique and results of spirometry.

### RESULTS

A total of 34 patients attended in the time period, distributed across CHN's 4, 5, and 6. Mean wait time from referral date was 33 days (Table 1). Majority of the referral complain was querying COPD (Figure 2). 88% demonstrated adequate technique. The spirometry results were as follows: 62% normal, 35% obstructive and 3% restrictive (Figure 3). Reversibility was carried out in total of 13 patients, of whom 7 demonstrated positive results.

### CONCLUSION

Early access to diagnostics allows the correct diagnoses of asthma and COPD to be made in the community. This empowers GPs to manage the patients appropriately with timely referral to community respiratory integrated services such as community pulmonary rehabilitation, clinical nurse specialists and physiotherapists. This project has improved access to care, with an average of 6 days for consultant reporting. Previously, access to spirometry was via the acute respiratory services, with long waiting times of over 3 years. Now, the early diagnosis of asthma and COPD ensure optimal treatment pathways are commenced much sooner.

### CITATION & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

References: National Framework for the Integrated Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease in Ireland 2020 – 2025

Acknowledgement: Denise Dunne (Operational Lead Galway City Ambulatory Hub)