

## LETTERS

### An author responds to “Most important risk factor missing from COPD score”

My coauthors and I thank Dr. Don Eby for his interest in our article.<sup>1,2</sup>

I have 37 years of experience working in a large emergency department and am very familiar with the complexities of making admission decisions. In our paper, my coauthors and I go to great lengths to indicate that medical risk of a poor outcome is only 1 factor to consider, along with many others. The following quotation is taken from the article’s Interpretation section:

Many nonmedical factors are important in the decision to admit a patient, such as support at home or availability of early follow-up. We see OCRS [Ottawa COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) Risk Scale] as an important tool to help physicians gauge the medical risk for their patients with COPD, while they determine the need for admission or early follow-up.<sup>2</sup>

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#### References

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2. Stiell IG, Perry JJ, Clement CM, et al. Clinical validation of a risk scale for serious outcomes among patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease managed in the emergency department. *CMAJ* 2018;190:E1406-13.

**Competing interests:** None declared.