Table 1

Classification of COPD severity based on the 2010 NICE guideline on COPD (CG101)[3]

NICE 2010 grading of COPD severity	Airflow obstruction measured by post-bronchodilator FEV_1/ FVC	FEV_1 expressed as a percentage of predicted value
Mild (stage 1)	<0.7	>80% + symptoms
Moderate (stage 2)	<0.7	50-79%
Severe (stage 3)	<0.7	30-49%
Very severe (stage 4)	<0.7	<30% or <50% with respiratory failure

Note that symptoms have to be present to diagnose mild COPD