Box 1

Key summary points

- When published, the National Clinical Strategy for COPD will produce a framework around which improved diagnosis and treatment of COPD can be delivered
- COPD should be confirmed by the presence of appropriate symptoms in a current or ex-smoker with airflow obstruction on post-bronchodilator spirometry
- Long-acting bronchodilators should be used at an early stage in patients with COPD
- Pulmonary rehabilitation is recommended in all patients with COPD functionally limited by breathlessness
- The BTS has published referral criteria for COPD