

COPD Classification by Symptoms

COPD Stage	Symptoms
At Risk	Asymptomatic smoker, ex-smoker or chronic cough/sputum, but post-bronchodilator $FEV_1/FVC \geq 0.7$ and/or (does not yet fulfill the diagnosis of COPD) $FEV_1 \geq 80\%$ predicted (MRC 0-1).
Mild	Shortness of breath from COPD when hurrying on the level or walking up a slight hill (MRC 2).
Moderate	Shortness of breath from COPD causing the patient to stop after walking about 100 m (or after a few minutes) on the level (MRC 3-4).
Severe	Shortness of breath from COPD resulting in the patient too breathless to leave the house, breathlessness after dressing/undressing (MRC 5), or the presence of chronic respiratory failure or clinical signs of right heart failure.