

QUALITY OF LIFE VS. HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION AMONG PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES

D. Kurpas^{1,2}, B. Mroczek³, Z. Sitko⁴, D. Helicka², and E. Kuchar⁵

¹ Department of Family Medicine, Wrocław Medical University, 1 Syrokomli St., 51-141 Wrocław, Poland, dkurpas@hotmail.com

² Public Higher Medical Professional School, 68 Katowicka St., 45-060 Opole, Poland

³ Public Health Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, Pomeranian Medical University, 48 Zolnierska St., 70-204 Szczecin, Poland

⁴ Prof. Alfred Sokolowski Specialist Hospital, 11 A. Sokolowski St., 70-891 Szczecin, Poland

⁵ Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Wrocław Medical University, 44 Bujwida St, 50-345, Wrocław, Poland

A high quality of life (QoL) level may potentially reduce the costs of medical care of chronically ill patients through lowering the level of health care utilization. The purpose of this study was to establish the influence of the QoL of primary care patients with chronic respiratory diseases on the level of health care utilization, as well as predictors of potential hospitalizations in the study group. The study group consisted of 594 adult patients with chronic respiratory diseases with the mean age 59.8 ± 14.9 years. The highest QoL levels were observed in the social relationship domain and the lowest in the physical domain. The low QoL level was associated with the low level of health care utilization among patients with chronic respiratory diseases. Most patients were hospitalized during the last three years. In the group of patients with chronic respiratory diseases, chances for hospitalization were: higher among patients with low levels of QoL and health satisfaction, the low QoL levels in the physical and social relationship domains, the high QoL levels in the psychological domain, those with higher education, residents of rural areas, patients using consultations by phone more frequently, and those with at least average index of services.