

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES

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The literature lacks reports on the role of the social relationships domain (SRD) of quality of life (QoL) in shaping care for patients with chronic respiratory diseases (CRD) in primary care. The study group contained 582 patients with CRD and chronic non-RD (CnRD) recruited from 199 primary care centers. In the CRD group, higher QoL SRD correlates with more frequent patient visits due to medical issue, fewer district nurse interventions over the last 12 months, rarer hospitalizations over the last 3 years, and fewer chronic diseases. Among CRD patients, a high QoL SRD is most effectively created by high QoL in the Psychological, Environmental, and Physical domains and satisfaction with QoL. Programs for preventing QoL declining in SRD should include patients with low scores in the Psychological, Environmental and Physical domains, those who have shown no improvement in mental or somatic well-being in the past 12 months, those with a low level of positive mental attitudes, unhealthy eating habits, and low levels of met needs. Programs should include older widows and widowers without permanent relationships, with only primary education, living far from a primary care center, and those whose visits were not due to a medical issue.