Joint Working EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Joint Working between AstraZeneca UK Ltd and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

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Project title	POLARISE
Aims and Objectives	The POLARISE project aims to further develop and evaluate digital and diagnostic pathways for COPD within Glasgow, with a particular focus on high-risk patients as defined by the GOLD 2025 guidelines, the Glasgow cardiopulmonary risk matrix, and the latest COPD pharmacological guidelines. The project seeks to address the unmet clinical needs of both diagnosed and undiagnosed individuals at greatest risk of poor outcomes. The objectives of POLARISE are as follows: POLARISE will proactively identify and manage high-risk COPD patients by implementing the cardiopulmonary risk assessment matrix, ensuring care is aligned with the new NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde guidelines, GOLD 2025 criteria, and current pharmacological recommendations. The approach will facilitate targeted preventative and therapeutic interventions for the most vulnerable groups. The project will integrate and assess the newly licenced N-Tidal COPD diagnostic solution (NTD, TidalSense) within the clinical pathway. This evaluation will focus on its effectiveness in diagnosing COPD especially in high-risk and previously undiagnosed patients and its potential to alleviate pressures on an overstretched workforce, contributing to a more sustainable diagnostic service. POLARISE will accrue longer-term data on clinical outcomes, service sustainability, and cost-effectiveness associated with the POLARISE pathway. Particular attention will be paid to clinical impact for high-risk patients, informing future scaling of the model to additional hubs across Glasgow, Scotland, and England.
Anticipated benefits	Patients: For people living with COPD in Glasgow, POLARISE will aim to accelerate access to early and accurate diagnosis, enable a greater focus on preventative care, and reduce longstanding inconsistencies in the delivery of service available through NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. High-risk patients, especially those whose diagnoses have been delayed or missed and those with co-existing conditions, will benefit from targeted outreach and precision referral into respiratory pathways. The enhanced approach is expected to reduce exacerbations, limit complications, and improve quality of life through timely and optimised

	management tailored to individual needs. NHS: POLARISE supports a number of key ambitions of NHS Scotland, including improving outcomes for respiratory disease, modernising diagnostic pathways, and reducing unwarranted variation in care. By advancing the recovery of diagnostic backlogs and standardising case-finding and management, the project addresses avoidable delays and diagnostic inaccuracies, and maximises opportunities for value-based, preventative interventions. Anticipated system benefits include reductions in COPD exacerbations, fewer hospital admissions, and better use of resources, which aligns with the NHS Scotland's aims to prevent illness, improve care quality, and reduce unnecessary hospital activity. The project's ongoing integration of emerging technologies, including AI-enabled diagnostics, supports the NHS commitment to mainstreaming digitally enabled and data-driven healthcare. AstraZeneca: For AstraZeneca, POLARISE fits directly with the company's commitment to supporting people with long-term respiratory conditions, as set out in its Medical Missions. By enabling earlier identification of COPD, facilitating optimised treatment pathways, and supporting review and management of uncontrolled patients, the project advances the shared aim to reduce exacerbation rates, lessen the burden of cardiovascular disease progression, and lower hospital admissions in COPD. AstraZeneca manufactures medicines for COPD however this project is not dependent upon the prescribing of any AstraZeneca medicines, and any prescribing decisions shall be the sole responsibility of a patients treating clinician.
Timeline	The project will commence on the 9th February 2026 and will continue for a duration of 24 months.
Contributions	The project will include the pooling of skills, experience and resources from both parties. AstraZeneca contribute to this project the total value of £244,997 including funding for clinical capacity and AZ employee time for project management, education and post project analysis. The NHS partner contribution totals £462,144 associated with clinical time, project management and governance. The NHS contribution does not include transfer of monies; it is based on cost of resource allocation. Full details of contributions are included in the agreed Joint Working agreement with the NHS
References	References Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD). Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (2025 Report). https://goldcopd.org/2025-gold-report/ NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. Clinical Guidelines: COPD. Latest guidelines available https://www.rightdecisions.scot.nhs.uk/media/ghihdbjq/id-214-copd-pc-guideline.pdf TidalSense. N-Tidal COPD diagnostic solution: Technology and clinical evaluation. https://www.tidalsense.com/technology/n-tidal/ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). COPD in over 16s: diagnosis and management [NG115].

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