



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Avow adds new pulmonary resource for at home care

New guide aims to prevent unnecessary ER visits and hospitalizations from chronic lung disease

NAPLES, Fla. (March 2, 2022) – Avow, along with the American Lung Association and National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI), announce a new home care resource for people living with advanced lung disease, designed to improve quality of life and reduce emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

The “Advanced Lung Care Patient and Caregiver Guide,” will help people with chronic lung disease and their caregivers learn and practice skills to prevent or manage respiratory symptoms at home while under the care of their medical team.

“We know it can feel overwhelming at times when a person or family member has severe lung disease,” said Deb Brown, chief mission officer for the American Lung Association. “An important part of living with chronic lung disease is finding the right support, both for the patient and the caregivers.”

The “Advanced Lung Care Guide” represents the best standards of care for lung disease in a home setting, as defined by the American Lung Association with the collective input of over 90 advanced illness and hospice care organizations. This resource is for people experiencing severe symptoms from chronic lung disease, which includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, pulmonary fibrosis, sarcoidosis, pulmonary hypertension, and lung cancer. The free guide includes tips for symptom management and self-care, medications, diet, advance care planning and more.

“As Avow celebrates 40 years of serving the community, we continue to seek resources and treatments that will help people live well, even with chronic illnesses,” said Dr. Rebecca Gatian, Avow’s chief clinical officer. “Our palliative care program is designed to alleviate the physical symptoms and emotional distress related to serious illnesses both in our outpatient clinic, on our campus or at the patient’s home.”

Chronic lung disease can be a tremendous burden for people living with the disease and their families. In 2016, over 2 million emergency department visits and over 650,000 hospitalizations were due to COPD, one of the most prevalent chronic lung diseases. COPD also costs the healthcare system more than \$50 billion a year – mostly due to ER visits and hospitalization.

To learn more about Avow’s Advanced Lung Care program, speak with a specialist by calling (239) 261-4404, or email info@avowcares.org.

About Avow:

Avow was founded in 1983 as Collier County’s original, non-profit hospice. Today, Avow’s non-profit companies provide palliative care consultations for adults facing chronic or serious illness and hospice care and bereavement support services for children and adults. To learn more about the scope of services provided by Avow, call 239-261-4404 or visit www.avowcares.org.

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Media Contacts:

Holly Boldrin, APR, CPRC, Priority Marketing, Holly@PriorityMarketing.com, 239-267-2638 or 239-887-9335 (cell)

Kathy Becker, Priority Marketing, kathyb@prioritymarketing.com, 239-267-2638 or 239-470-2681 (cell)