Our COPD Patients Have Something Important to Say about Non-Invasive Ventilation

When I first met Jake, he could do very little on his own. He even needed assistance moving from the bedside commode back into bed.

Jake said he felt really anxious about beginning NIV therapy. During the initial setup, he was so short of breath that he could not keep the mask on for more than five minutes.

Jake has steadily increased his NIV usage over time and has become more active. At first, he was just getting out of bed and going into the living room. Now, the last time I saw him, he was on the front lawn trying to get his dog to go back inside.

Jake has started driving to his great-grandson’s ball games and I notice a twinkle in his eye that wasn’t there before. I see that Jake is getting his independence back and I am so proud of him!

– Patient story told by Apria Respiratory Therapist Linda Pelikan (The patient name has been changed to protect his privacy)

Diagnosis:
- Chronic respiratory failure consequent to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Severe dyspnea without exertion

Stats:
- Not previously on bi-level
- Discharged from hospital on NIV

Hospitalizations:
- Pre-NIV (12 months prior to setup): Multiple hospitalizations, with some intubations
- Post-NIV (last 6 months): None