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

Henry told me that he always felt claustrophobic while on bi-level but now that feeling is gone. Since starting NIV, Henry is more compliant with therapy and says he is sleeping much better. His doctor recently told him that his carbon dioxide level had improved to 48 mm Hg.

The last time I was at Henry’s house, he told me that the “lightheaded” feeling he had been experiencing is gone. Henry appears to have more energy and has started driving a few times a week to meet up with friends to play cards.

Henry said that one of the reasons he likes NIV is because it allows him to exhale when he wants to, not when the machine wants him to.

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

Diagnosis:
• Chronic respiratory failure consequent to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
• Feeling light-headed
• Insomnia

Stats:
• Length on bi-level: 3 years
• pCO2: 122 mm Hg
• Recent hospitalizations with intubation

Hospitalizations:
• Pre-NIV (12 months prior to setup): 3
• Post-NIV (last 10 months): None