Clinical working definition of respiratory failure. **ALL** the following criteria were required to switch arm:

1. Clinical evidence of sputum retention (e.g. auscultation, chest x-ray)
2. Arterial blood gases: pH less than 7.26
3. Arterial blood gases: rising CO$_2$
4. Already receiving controlled oxygen therapy
5. Already receiving other supportive treatment(s)

---

*a* Being discharged (n = 241), no physiotherapist available (n = 73), not under care of Respiratory Consultant (n = 55), lives out of area (n = 51), already seen by a physiotherapist (n = 41)

*b* No physiotherapist available (1) patient refused treatment (4)

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Figure 1 Trial profile

```
Assessed for eligibility
N = 7,086

Randomized
n = 527

Allocated to MCP arm: n = 261
  Received allocation: n = 256
  Did not receive allocation: n = 5

Allocated to control arm: n = 266
  Received allocation: n = 262
  Received MCP for clinical reasons: n = 4

Post Randomisation Exclusions: n = 3
  Revised diagnosis: n = 2
  Emergent exclusion criteria: n = 1

Lost to Follow-up: n = 72
  Deaths: n = 33
  Withdrawals: n = 8
  Non response: n = 31

Lost to Follow-up: n = 78
  Deaths: n = 37
  Withdrawals: n = 6
  Non response: n = 35

Number Analysed; n = 186
  Primary Outcome measure (SGRQ)

Number analysed; n = 186
  Primary Outcome measure (SGRQ)

Excluded: n = 6,559
  Failed inclusion criteria: n = 5,877
  Refused to participate: n = 221
  Other reasons: n = 461
```

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