

Q & A Summary Document to Support NHS South East region COVID Oximetry @home and virtual wards, held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_PygJ0s27o

Q: Could you tell us about the **evaluation** of the use of PulseOx in the care and management of patients/residents; what's in progress now, what's planned for the future or different stages of the programme rollout?

A: There are a number of evaluations in progress and some that have already been published. See below for links.

Q: Is the CVW is for patients **discharged after a longer stay in hospital** as well as those turned around in ED

A: There are several components - namely COVID Oximetry @ Home supporting Primary Care; Alternative Admission from ED / MAU to either Oximetry @ Home Primary Care led or COVID Virtual ward for those that are more unwell led by secondary care and finally Covid Virtual Ward for Safe Early discharge led by secondary / respiratory care teams.

Q: There seems to be **variation in inclusion criteria** between areas. Will there be a convergence nationally, reflecting optimal outcomes?

A: We are working hard on the inclusion criteria, looking at reducing age of entry and adding serious mental illness, but we need to look at modelling to ensure we have enough oximeters.

Q: The problem with the **dexamethasone being stopped or not on discharge**, is that it seems to be inconsistent: the 40 year old who needs no community care might get them stopped when they go home, but the 80 year old who needs a package of care and so has to wait in hospital, gets them continued and completes the 10 day course (even if the condition of each patient is the same, apart from care needs). Any views?

A: NICE are relooking at this as part of the pathways group.

Q: Is **colchicine** now being used as a treatment?

A: CMO is pronouncing on soon, the evidence is a bit limited

Q: A lot of our systems are looking at **blended models** between pulse oximetry and covid virtual ward. Have you seen any examples of MoU and risk sharing agreements within this space to support this process?

A: Integrated models are the future. Some regions have really led on this e.g. South Tees, and parts of Manchester. Please check out the FutureNHS Deterioration Forum, there are lots of case studies of these and other models (see link below)

Q: Ambulance service how do you **use the results from the sit to stand assessment**?

A: Our crews document the number of times the patient can sit to stand in one minute - and document the pre and post sats in ePR. Those that significantly deteriorate will be admitted - in accordance with the decision tool.

Q: Are you **sharing the details of patients who have an oximeter with the GP** or providers of covid oximetry@home and do they contact you if they deteriorate?

A: Discharge information is shared as usual with the GP and patients are given the national safety netting leaflet to guide who they should contact if they deteriorate

Q: What happens to the oximeter when patient has improved. **Do they get returned?**

A: They are returned to their local GP.

Q: We've all seen the BBC article about the lifesaving £20 gadget, but there are also reports raising concerns about the accuracy of these devices. **Are the oximeters being used in C@H compliant with ISO 80601-2-61:2017 as per NHS guidelines?** Do you have any real-world data about the accuracy of the devices that are being used?

A: The evaluation of accuracy of oximeters is being led by MHRA and our national clinical engineers group. Most are +/-2% which is the same as hospital grade oximeters. The major difference between cheap vs expensive is a reduction in reliability <80% Ox sats and in hypovolaemic shock, both of which do not apply to our population. We have asked for alerting via the yellow card system to raise the alarm if there are episodes of missed low hypoxia due to oximeters.

Q: What is your view on the **accuracy in dark skinned patients?**

A: Looking at 92-98% ranges they are v good. It is only at the < 80% that we struggle, again not the population we are looking at. Baseline, trends and clinical judgement make the system safer for all skin tones. NIHR have been asked to do a study to look at this specifically, and validate the oximeters in our higher range community patients. Worth noting the NEJM study was based on non COVID, is > 6 years old, concerns ICU patients who were very sick and not community patients

List of helpful links:

Resources available online here: <https://wessexahsn.org.uk/programmes/show/49/covid-oximetry>

FutureNHS national deterioration platform for resources, discussion points and learning network. <https://future.nhs.uk/NEWS2CN/view?objectId=21764720>

AHSN COVID Oximetry and virtual wards webpage <https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/covid-oximetry>

CO@h SOP, easy read and patient diary link

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/pulse-oximetry-to-detect-early-deterioration-of-patients-with-covid-19-in-primary-and-community-care-settings/>

Translated versions of diaries <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/pulse-oximetry-to-detect-early-deterioration-of-patients-with-covid-19-in-primary-and-community-care-settings-annex-2-covid-19-diary-translated-versions/>

SOP for CVW <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/covid-virtual-ward/>

NHS @home safety netting leaflets

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/suspected-coronavirus-covid-19-important-information-to-keep-you-safe-while-isolating-at-home/>

Link to patient video for how to use pulse oximeters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifnYjD4IKus&feature=youtu.be>

Publications

Matt Inada-Kim and SCAS paper – pre-publication article to support the importance of oxygen measurement <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.06.20225938v1>

UCL evaluation report of first 17 pilot sites
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.07.20208587v2>

TICC-19 published articles <https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m2119> and
<https://acutemedjournal.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/p183-191-1.pdf>

RCGP silent hypoxia publication
https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/pluginfile.php/149506/mod_page/content/88/Virtual%20wards%2C%20silent%20hypoxia%20and%20improving%20COVID%20outcomes_formatted_28.10.20.pdf

Jane Wilcock, et al Salford and Leicester. What is the value of community oximetry monitoring in people with SARS-CoV ? – A prospective, open-label clinical study
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.03.21249168v1>

New York: Hospital Readmissions After Implementation of a Discharge Care Program for Patients with COVID-19 Illness <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11606-020-06340-w>

Implementation and evaluation of a COVID-19 rapid follow-up service for patients discharged from the emergency department <https://www.rcpjournals.org/content/clinmedicine/21/1/e57>

France: Asymptomatic hypoxia in COVID-19 is associated with poor outcome
[https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712\(20\)32271-2/fulltext](https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(20)32271-2/fulltext)

WHO COVID-19 Clinical management: living guidance
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-clinical-2021-1>