

Information for patients and visitors

Home Oxygen Treatment

**Home Oxygen Assessment and Review Service
Medicine Group
Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby**

**This leaflet has been designed to
give you important information
about your condition / procedure,
and to answer some common
queries that you may have.**



Information for patients and visitors

Home Oxygen Treatment

The air that we breathe contains 21% oxygen. We all need a steady supply to function properly. People with lung conditions may have to work much harder to try to obtain all the oxygen that their bodies need. Doctors have found that for some people, breathing air with a higher concentration of oxygen can be beneficial.

However, this treatment is **NOT** appropriate for everyone, and in some cases could even be harmful. It is therefore necessary for those on oxygen therapy to be assessed and monitored by a specialist team. This leaflet gives you information on what you can expect if you are referred for home oxygen.

Types of Oxygen Therapy

Oxygen can be supplied via a number of different devices. Your assessment will indicate what is appropriate for you, and how you need to use it. You may be provided with cylinders, or a machine called a concentrator which produces a supply of oxygen. This runs on electricity, and any running costs are reimbursed to you.

Your oxygen provider will read your meter and reimburse you. Portable cylinders may be available for use out of the home if assessment indicates they are appropriate.

Individual requirements will be discussed at your assessments.

Oxygen Assessment

An assessment usually carried out in a hospital clinic by the Respiratory Specialist Nurse Team to determine if extra oxygen is appropriate may include some blood tests. Blood samples may be taken before and during oxygen therapy, (this may take a couple of hours). The blood samples are

taken to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood before and during oxygen therapy to assess if home oxygen is appropriate.

It may also be necessary to perform a walk test without and with oxygen therapy. If you require oxygen at home, you will be monitored at regular intervals to assess any change in need.

Temporary Provision of Oxygen

Respiratory illnesses sometimes require oxygen therapy for a few weeks until stable. If this is necessary from hospital discharge you will be reassessed in 4 – 6 weeks.

Fortunately, the majority of patients are found not to need long-term / permanent oxygen therapy. If this is found to be the case, we then arrange for any equipment to be removed.

Benefits

Oxygen treatment can be used to help those people needing extra oxygen. Often this is due to lung problems. **Oxygen is not a treatment for breathlessness**, and will be prescribed according to individual requirements.

Risks

OXYGEN TREATMENT CAN BE A FIRE HAZARD IF NOT USED SAFELY!

Your details will be given to the fire service by your oxygen provider. It is important not to use oxygen equipment near cigarettes including e-cigarettes or open flames.

Please do not use oil based creams.

Please be careful of tubing to reduce the risk of falls.

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Alternatives

There are no alternatives.

Availability

Within working hours

The respiratory specialist nurses are available Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm, excluding bank holidays. They are contactable on Grimsby 01472 874111.

If there is no one to take a telephone call a message can be left on the answer machine.

Emergency

Out of hours it is recommended that you contact your own General Practitioner or the GP Out of Hours service.

Reference Section

British Thoracic Society website

[http://www.brit-thoracic\(2015\).org.uk/](http://www.brit-thoracic(2015).org.uk/)

Home Oxygen Service-assessment and review, Primary Care Commissioning.

Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital – you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

For Scunthorpe General Hospital – you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:

nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Confidentiality and How We Use Data

Personal information on NHS patients is collected and recorded within paper and electronic formats primarily to support high quality care that is safe and effective. To do this, information is also used to support quality improvement activities, investigate any concerns you may raise as well as to support and understand NHS performance. All NHS staff have a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it. Other circumstances where information may be shared include administrative teams to plan future care needed, commissioners of Trust services, other NHS or social care providers and in some cases voluntary sector providers.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.



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Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

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