

8.08 Audit on the implementation of guidelines for the use of High Flow Nasal Oxygen (HFNO) in Beaumont Hospital

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Background: We developed a local policy document and accompanying flow algorithm to support HFNO use in the setting of hypoxaemic respiratory failure, in order to standardise HFNO use and identify areas for change/improvement.

Methods: The new HFNO policy document was introduced to two core respiratory wards over a pilot period between October 2022 and January 2023. Use of HFNO on these wards was audited and compared to pre-policy audit results. Information was collected from the medical and nursing observation record. User feedback was also obtained.

Results: Data from 14 patients was audited. There continued to be significant deviations in practice, especially around the performance of arterial blood gas (ABG) measurement and variance from the recommended temperature and flow rate settings. There were significant improvements compared to pre-policy data, such as in the prevalence of pre-initiation ABG measurement (78.5%), documented prescriptions (61.5%-v-15%), and minimum hourly observations (100%-v-25%). Overall staff feedback was positive.

Conclusions: Overall, the implementation of a dedicated local policy for HFNO use has been well-received by staff and has resulted in significant improvements. However, adherence to the guideline remains suboptimal with substantial variation in practice. We plan to amend our guideline based on these results prior to re-audit.

Keywords: HFNO (High Flow Nasal Oxygen).

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