

8.11 Oxygen Therapy Clinic: A 10 year review

Sarah Nolan¹

¹Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland

Background: The purpose of this study was to review the efficacy of the Oxygen Therapy Clinic (OTC) in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda since establishment ten years ago. Follow-up in the OTC can significantly decrease inappropriate supplemental oxygen use, which can result in significant cost savings while providing improved health-care delivery

Method: Collation and analysis of patient data collected from the OTC since its inception. The results of 2093 patient assessments during the ten year time period from 01/10/2013-31/07/2023 were reviewed. The referring condition, source of referral and the reason for referral was recorded. In addition data from the clinic was analysed based on whether a prescription was initiated, changed, remained unchanged or cancelled.

Results: 64.05% of post hospital patients and 57.24% of review patients had a change to or removal of their prescription on follow-up in the OTC. The OTC optimises the benefits of oxygen therapy, ensures best patient care and effectively reduces the cost of inappropriate oxygen prescribing with an estimated cost saving of €3,096,944 over 10 years.

Conclusion: Strong evidence exists for the importance of reviewing patients' prescriptions following hospital discharge along with regular reviews as their disease progresses. The OTC has shown to be cost effective.

Keywords: Oxygen Therapy, Oxygen Therapy Clinic, Cost savings

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