

## 8.16 Improved oxygen prescription compliance

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**Background:** Medical oxygen is one of the most commonly used drugs in acute care settings. Inadequate prescribing is common, as shown in a UK national audit where only 57.5% of patients had a valid prescription.<sup>1</sup> We undertook a quality improvement project (QIP) aimed at achieving enhanced oxygen prescription in our hospital in line with Irish thoracic society guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

**Methods:** An initial snapshot audit of oxygen prescription was undertaken in July 2022 for all wards, reviewing documentation of SpO<sub>2</sub>, flow rate, target SpO<sub>2</sub>, delivery system and duration/review date. Interventions were undertaken following audit cycle 1 completion. Audit cycle 2 was completed following a second snapshot audit in April 2023.

**Results:** In audit cycle 1 only 9% (4/43) of patients had oxygen prescribed on the drug Kardex. Intervention included a redesign of the oxygen prescription section on the drug Kardex and education sessions for both medical and nursing staff. In audit cycle 2, 87% (41/47) had oxygen prescribed in the drug kardex.

**Conclusion:** We achieved our goal of enhancing oxygen prescription within our hospital with a 78% improvement in Audit cycle 2. Further work is needed to maintain this achievement with ongoing education and annual re-audit.

1. O'Driscoll, R. British Thoracic Society Emergency Oxygen Audit Report National Audit Period: 15 August – 1 November 2015. United Kingdom. 2016.
2. Irish Thoracic Society. Irish Guidelines on the Administration of Oxygen Therapy in the Acute Clinical Setting in Adults 2017. Ireland. 2017.