

## 8.20 Long term savings from short term oxygen assessments

<sup>1</sup>Orla Threadgold, <sup>1</sup>Eve Stanley, <sup>1,2</sup>Kenneth Bolger

<sup>1</sup>Chronic Disease Management Hub, Carlow/Kilkenny

<sup>2</sup>St. Luke's General Hospital Carlow/Kilkenny

**Background:** Data suggests that there are large numbers of patients on Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) where it is not clinically indicated [1]. Oxygen therapy is expensive, with an estimated annual national cost of €9 million [1]. In March 2023 a Respiratory Integrated Care (RIC), Physiotherapy-Led Oxygen Assessment and Review Clinic (OARC) was established in Carlow/Kilkenny. We aimed to quantify the cost saving impact of this clinic by withdrawing oxygen therapy no longer clinically indicated.

**Methods:** We collected data on the interventions implemented in our OARC including initiation, adjustment and withdrawal of oxygen therapy. We contacted Irish LTOT providers to establish oxygen therapy costs. Based on these findings we calculated the cost saving implications.

**Results:** We reviewed 18 patients in the first 5 months. As per national guidelines 8 (44%) of patients no longer met criteria for LTOT and had it withdrawn. The average cost of LTOT per patient per month is €203. Our clinic resulted in a monthly cost saving of €1,624 thus far with a prospective annual saving of €19,488.

**Conclusions:** RIC OARCs have the potential to identify unnecessary LTOT. In addition to maintaining best clinical practice they confer cost saving benefits. Further research is required.

**Keywords:** Long Term Oxygen Therapy, Oxygen Assessment and Review Clinic, cost saving

**Disclosures:** None.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

1. O'Donnell C, Davis P, McDonnell T (2019) 'Oxygen Therapy in Ireland: A Nationwide Review of Delivery, Monitoring and Cost Implications' Irish Medical Journal 9;112(5):933

**Corresponding Author:** Orla Threadgold, Chronic Disease Management Hub Carlow/Kilkenny, South East Community Healthcare, James' Green, Kilkenny