

8.17 O2 -What Should We Do? Oxygen Clinic, Nenagh Hospital, ULHG – Evaluation, Audit and Improvement Plan

Olivia Quinn¹, Aidan O'Brien¹, Brian Casserly¹, Rizwan Aziz¹, Catherine Quinn¹. ¹University Limerick Hospital Group

Background: Currently in Ireland there are approximately ten thousand people living with some form of home oxygen therapy (ITS, 2015). A nationwide review in 2019, found 38% of Irish hospitals had a dedicated oxygen assessment clinic, while 62% did not. A pilot oxygen clinic was set up in the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU), Nenagh Hospital, in 2021.

The purpose of this clinic was:

- To provide a structured, multidisciplinary team approach to managing patients who require oxygen therapy, assessment and review
- To move oxygen assessments from the general medical respiratory clinics, to a specific oxygen clinic
- To provide onsite medical support for the Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in completing oxygen assessments
- To reduce cost implications associated with oxygen prescriptions
- To ensure oxygen prescriptions have a timely follow up
- To support the right oxygen prescription for the right patient
- To improve patient satisfaction
- To complete oxygen assessments in a standardised format based on the Irish Guidelines on Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) in Adults (ITS, 2015).

Method: An audit and improvement plan was completed in 2022

Results: Oxygen assessments supported right drug, right patient, right time, which also proved cost effective. Patient reviews were completed within 8-12 weeks as recommended. Patient satisfaction was extremely positive.

Conclusions: Improved compliance with international guidelines was demonstrated, while areas of improvement were also highlighted.

Key words: oxygen therapy, respiratory clinic

Disclosures:

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

References:

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