

Audit of Oxygen therapy in a Specialist Palliative Medicine Unit

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Introduction

- We audited the use of normobaric hyperoxia against guidelines issued by the British Thoracic Society (BTS).
- These state that
 - Oxygen should be prescribed to achieve target oxygen saturation of 94-98% for most acutely ill patients or 88-92% for those at risk of hypercapnic respiratory failure.
 - The target saturation should be documented on the drug prescription chart.

Methods

- Retrospective analysis of the drug charts for all in-patients in St Margaret of Scotland Hospice's specialist palliative care unit throughout January 2013 (cycle1) and practice compared to guidelines (Figure 1)
- Results were presented orally to staff
- Cycle 2 was performed in April 2013 and was performed by 2 clinicians (Figure 1)

Results

- Cycle 1: Four of twenty one patients (19%) required supplemental oxygen. All patients had oxygen prescribed (100%) but only 1 (25%) had oxygen prescribed with the correct target saturation documented.
- Cycle 2: Three of twenty patients (14%) required supplemental oxygen and all of these (100%) had oxygen prescribed regularly and all (100%) with correct target saturation documented which represented an improvement.

Conclusion

- After intervention there was improvement to 100% adherence to the standard required for oxygen prescription.

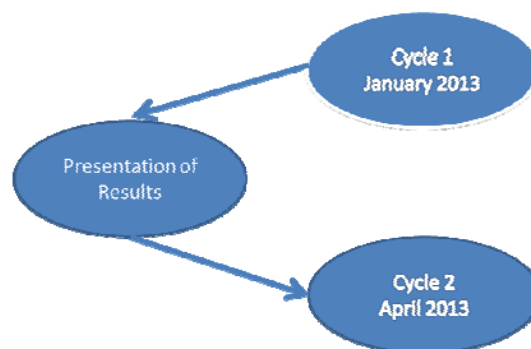


Figure 1.

References

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O'Driscoll BR, Howard LS, Bucknall C, Welham SA, Davison AG. British Thoracic Society. BTS guideline for emergency oxygen use in adult patients. Thorax 2008; 63 (suppl 6): vi1-68