**An audit of oxygen prescribing on surgical wards**

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**Background:**

Oxygen is one of the most commonly administered drugs in hospital, however its prescription is notoriously poor [1]. Whilst ready availability and easy administration of oxygen make it appear innocuous, both over- and underuse can cause significant morbidity and even mortality [2].

**Method:**

We are currently undertaking an audit of oxygen prescribing on surgical wards at Southmead Hospital, using BTS guidelines as the audit standard [3]. The audit will assess whether the risk factors and target saturations section of our drug chart is being completed, and whether patients on oxygen have it prescribed appropriately.

**Results:**

Baseline data collection from 24 patients on three wards showed that the chart was completed appropriately in only 33% of cases, and that target saturations were missing in 46%.

Several interventions are planned including: trialling a new drug chart, and training and communicating with responsible clinicians regarding oxygen prescription. We will then re-audit to assess improvements and close the audit loop.

**Key Message:**

Through this audit we hope to highlight deficiencies surrounding oxygen prescribing, demonstrate short-term improvement through simple interventions and bring about long-lasting change through broader recommendations, such as implementing a local oxygen policy.