

Availability of pulse oximeters for use with people at home and in care homes

Pulse oximetry used under clinical supervision can help identify 'silent hypoxia' and rapid patient deterioration for patients with COVID-19 living at home including in care homes.

NHS England and NHS Improvement has purchased a limited supply of pulse oximeters that can be transferred to CCGs free of charge for their local areas when there is an urgent need such as increased local infection rate, existing intention to purchase pulse oximeters, or care homes with insufficient oximeters (each care home is recommended to have around one oximeter per 25 beds, depending on the type and configuration of the home and with a minimum of two per home). CCGs will need to provide assurance that:

- oximeters will be used under general practice supervision
- people at greatest risk from COVID-19 will be prioritised and supported
- reasonable efforts will be made to safely reallocate oximeters if required, for example, because of evolving COVID-19 infection profiles and clinical pathways
- reasonable efforts will be made to supply relevant information on oximeter use to inform future use of oximetry for COVID-19 patients.

For more information and to submit a request for oximeters please contact england.home@nhs.net. This information has also been shared with general practice colleagues, with a recommendation for primary care networks (PCNs) to contact CCGs if they feel they have an urgent requirement which their CCG is not already aware. [Guidance is available on the use of pulse oximetry](#) to detect early deterioration of patients with COVID-19 in primary and community care settings.

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Pulse oximetry to detect early deterioration of patients with COVID-19 in primary and community care settings

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Annex 2: Remote monitoring COVID-19 diary

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