

## Pulse Oximeter FAQs for Covid Virtual Wards

*This list is collated from pilot sites and learning network webinars. It is evolving as others share their learning.*

To date only CCG have been able to order from the national free stock. As of this week acute Trusts can now order direct:

"We can distribute oximeters directly to acute trusts on request in batches of 100. They can email [england.home@nhs.net](mailto:england.home@nhs.net) and we'll process these in the same way as oximeters to CCGs (i.e. keeping you informed, asking for basic info for smooth delivery normally within 3 working days)." *David Bramley, Deputy Director, NHS @home (interim) – Personalised Care Group, NHS England and NHS Improvement*

### **Pulse Oximeter FAQs How many pulse oximeters do I need?**

As a rough guide and suggestions from pilot sites

- 30 per GP practice (8,000 population)
- **300 per acute trust (600,000 population)**
- 1 per 25 care home residents

Care homes may have already been supplied with pulse oximeters during the initial pandemic so it is worth checking with your system.

### **Can patients use their own?**

Yes. All products, provided they are CE kite marked, are safe to use in the 90%+ range (they may be less accurate below 90), but don't use \*smartphones\* as oximeters <https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/question-should-smartphone-appsbe-used-as-oximeters-answer-no/>

Make sure you provide education information with any device – see patient information videos and leaflets within the Covid-19 Virtual Ward tool kit.

### **Can Paediatrics use the devices?**

No. Most devices are suitable for people aged 16 and over. Specialist equipment designed for paediatrics and specialist team assessment should be considered. Covid-19 cases requiring escalation are rare in children, but it is important to consider other conditions such as sepsis that require immediate support.