

COPD Units of Learning

Title of overarching NOS: CHS 19 Undertake physiological measurements	Unit of learning to demonstrate competence: Estimation of oxygen saturation using pulse oximetry
Details of the relationship between the unit to demonstrate competence and relevant national occupational standards (if appropriate)	Users will be able to demonstrate competence in performing an individual's pulse oximetry to establish oxygen saturation levels required to assess, monitor and inform interventions within COPD and other respiratory diseases services
Outcomes: The individual will know and understand:	Assessment criteria To be competent the individual will be able to:
Indicative Level	Level 1 (Expert/specialist) Level 2 (Experienced practitioner) Level 3 (Novice new to respiratory disease management (including COPD))
Respiratory disease and COPD pertinent to level of responsibility, scope of practice and according to NICE guidelines	Describe to the individual how the stages of COPD and other respiratory disease may affect oxygen saturation and management decisions
The use of pulse oximetry in an individual's COPD and other respiratory diseases management	Demonstrate understanding by explaining the oxygen saturation curve to professional colleagues Define and explain the common terms used in measuring oxygen saturation to professional colleagues and individuals in a manner and format to aid understanding Clearly explain the rationale of pulse oximetry to the individual and how it can assist in the assessment of an individual's lung function
Health, safety and infection control measures	Work collaboratively with the individual to demonstrate appropriate health and safety measure, decontamination and infection control protocols for the procedure
Assess and monitor risk factors during pulse oximetry monitoring	Assess the risk to the individual which may result from pulse oximetry monitoring

Calibration and quality assurance measurements required for pulse oximetry procedures	Check and confirm the operational and quality status of the selected measuring device
Effective use the pulse oximetry device, the principles of operation, limitations and factors which may affect accuracy	Demonstrate effective use of the equipment throughout the procedure Perform pulse oximetry in accordance with agreed protocols
Implications and relevant action for abnormal or low pulse oximetry results for individuals with COPD and other respiratory diseases	Check for the presence of interfering factors on pulse oximetry such as nail varnish Describe what factors effect a pulse oximetry reading Take appropriate action based on the individuals oxygen saturation levels, diagnosis and emerging data to optimise results and to manage the level of risk Obtain and record acceptable measurements of oxygen saturation sufficient to assist the assessment of an individuals lung function
Interpret results within personal level of competence	Demonstrate awareness of relevant guidelines and the parameters that have been set e.g. BTS emergency oxygen guidelines Correctly interpret oxygen saturation levels Share the results of pulse oximetry with professional colleagues
Handle information and maintain the confidentiality of records	Record information in line with organisational requirements and maintain the rights of individuals and principles of confidentiality
Communicate effectively	Communicate effectively with the individual and professional colleagues in a manner and style appropriate to the needs of the individual, maintaining dignity, respect and confidentiality
Refer individuals to appropriate services	Seek advice and support from competent individuals whenever the procedure, data or area of expertise is outside your level of competence
Endorsement of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)	COPD Strategy Group/DH England; respiratory education providers