

Oxygen Prescriptions for Gynaecology Inpatients

Plan

Trust policy for all inpatients to have a target oxygen saturation identified on admission

Widespread issue with poor oxygen prescription compliance across the country¹

47 % (n = 15) of gynae inpatients had no oxygen prescribed

Incorrect/absent prescriptions have the potential to cause harm²

Target compliance 80 %

Do

Simple poster campaign with posters present in:

- Ward 14 Doctor's Office
- Ward 14 Nurse's Station
- GATU Office

Previous work suggests failure to prescribe is due to forgetfulness¹ – a simple poster should suffice as a reminder

Collaboration with Sister-in-charge to challenge when no oxygen prescribed

Study

Correct oxygen prescriptions increased to 72 % (n = 18) of cases post intervention

28 % of inpatients had no oxygen prescribed

No patients had oxygen prescribed incorrectly; where oxygen was prescribed, individual needs had been considered including those with target saturations outside of the normal range

Act

Increase in prescriptions, but not to target of 80 %

Maintain poster campaign over a longer period

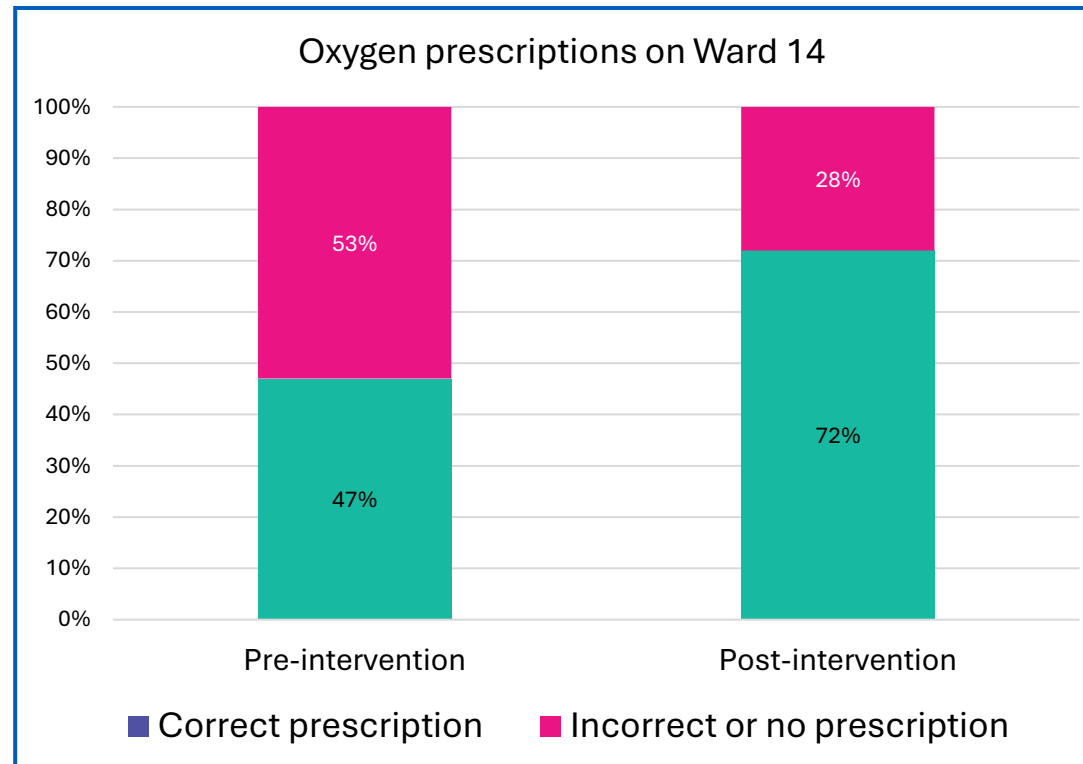
Increase buy-in from medical staff, including education of the importance of correct prescriptions

Increase awareness among nursing staff to challenge when oxygen not prescribed

Involve pharmacy staff to monitor compliance

Why oxygen prescriptions?

On a surgical ward with generally otherwise well patients, why are oxygen prescriptions important? Any inpatient has the potential to become unwell, with increasing oxygen requirement, either secondary to the reason for their admission or due to hospital-acquired infection. Post-operatively, this risk is higher. Incorrect oxygen prescriptions have the potential to cause significant harm, especially in those at risk of type 2 respiratory failure³.



A note on statistical significance:

- A one-tailed Fisher's exact test performed on these data shows that the increase from 47 % to 72 % is not significant at $p < 0.05$
- To reach significance, ~ 88 % compliance would be needed, above the target for this project
- In future, larger sample sizes will be required

References

1. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.89283>
2. <https://doi.org/10.4187/respcare.02677>
3. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.170196>