

Oxygen Alert Card (For patients with Oxygen Sensitivity)

Patient Information

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.



Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital
Marshall Cross Road,
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

Your Oxygen Alert Card and Alert Band

The purpose of the alert card is to make sure that doctors, nurses, ambulance staff, emergency department staff and your relatives know you are sensitive to oxygen.

The oxygen alert band should act in the same way as a diabetic warning bracelet.

The bands are to be a visual prompt for healthcare professionals to ensure patients, who are at risk of type 2 respiratory failure, are not over-oxygenated during their hospital admission and in the community.

If you have a serious deterioration in your lung condition, please show this card to the ambulance staff and also take it with you to the hospital.

The ambulance staff and hospital team may have been pre-warned that you are sensitive to oxygen.



For further information:

If you require any further information or advice regarding your oxygen please contact your oxygen service, GP or COPD/Respiratory Nurse.

The oxygen service can be contacted on 0151 430 1553, 9am –5pm, Monday – Friday.

If you are known to Community COPD Rapid Response Service, 8.30am – 7pm, 7 days a week. They will be able to discuss your enquiry and help with any problems.

Further advice may be obtained from:

Respiratory Medicine

Community COPD Rapid Response Service
Lowe House Resource Centre

2nd Floor, Suite 2
Crab Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 2DJ

Tel: 0151 430 1553

Sthelens.copd@nhs.net

What is oxygen sensitivity?

Some patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema or other long-term chest conditions can become sensitive to medium or high doses of oxygen. This does not happen to all people with these conditions but may affect a small number.

Therefore, if oxygen is needed by these people, it should be given in a controlled way and monitored carefully.

You have been identified as being at risk of oxygen sensitivity.

If you should become unwell and need to call an ambulance requiring oxygen, it is very important that you are given the correct amount/ flow of oxygen on your way to hospital or whilst in hospital.

Too much oxygen can cause a rise in the level of carbon dioxide in our blood and this could make you drowsy or slow your breathing and make you very poorly.

Too little oxygen can also be dangerous.

When you arrive at the hospital the doctors will check your oxygen and carbon dioxide levels regularly. They will prescribe the appropriate amount of oxygen and monitor any change in your oxygen 20 minutes later with a blood test from your wrist. This is to ensure your oxygen and carbon dioxide levels are within safe range.



Venturi Mask

Your Venturi Mask

You have also been given a 24% Venturi mask or a 28% Venturi mask which delivers this exact amount of oxygen you can tolerate.

This mask usually gives sufficient oxygen to you and reduces the risk of a high carbon dioxide level in your blood; until you have had your oxygen and carbon dioxide levels checked with a blood test.

You should wear your Venturi mask in the ambulance and at the hospital unless the ambulance team or hospital team identify the need for a different dose of oxygen when they measure your oxygen saturation.

The concentration of oxygen delivered by a venturi mask is determined by the venturi valve.

The flow rate of oxygen can be set between the limits defined below for 24% and 28% Venturi masks.

Please adjust the flow rate between those limits asking when the patient feels most comfortable.

The target oxygen saturation range is 88-92%.

24% venturi: 2-4 litres per minute

28% venturi: 4-6 litres per minute



What happens in the ambulance?

Your oxygen level will be monitored - usually with a finger probe (oximeter) while you are using your personal Venturi mask.

If the level falls below a certain range, the ambulance crew may need to use a different mask or nasal oxygen.

The ambulance crew have been trained to manage this situation.

What happens if I am admitted to hospital?

As soon as you are admitted to the hospital, your oxygen and carbon dioxide levels will be measured and oxygen will be given to you appropriately.

You may be changed to a different mask or flow rate; this should be monitored regularly throughout your hospital stay, and any changes in your oxygen flow rate should be checked 20 minutes later with a blood test.

How do I get a new mask upon my discharge?

As soon as you know you are due to be discharged home, it is essential that you obtain another mask to take home with you from one of the specialist nurses.

This can be obtained from the Clinical Nurse Specialist or another respiratory team member using the contact number below:

Tel 0151 430 1553

Ask the ward staff to contact the team and arrange for you to have a new replacement mask. Some wards may already provide these masks and be able to give you them directly.

Instructions for use:

1. Carry your oxygen alert card and mask with you at all times. This mask is for emergency use only. You may have a different oxygen delivery system for routine use if you are on home oxygen treatment.
2. If you need to call an ambulance or you need to have oxygen whilst visiting your GP, you should hand the card and mask to the ambulance crew or to your doctor. They will treat you using the mask and the oxygen prescription on the card.

Please contact the following staff with any questions or advice you may need:

Respiratory Nurse Specialist/ COPD Nurse Specialist Tel:
0151 430 1553

08:30am – 19:00pm 7 days a week / 365 days per year.