

Oxygen Assessment Service: Long-term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT)

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

What the service offers

The Oxygen Assessment Service has been set up to ensure that you are correctly prescribed oxygen.

Oxygen therapy increases the amount of oxygen in the lungs and the bloodstream. There are several reasons people are prescribed oxygen. You may have respiratory or cardiac problems, cluster headaches or be receiving palliative or end of life care.

We will carry out an assessment of the amount of oxygen in your blood and then we will decide if you need to be prescribed oxygen at home.

Where the service is provided

The Oxygen Assessment Service is located in a community hospital Setting.

When you arrive at the hospital, please go to the Main Information Desk and ask for Outpatients Department Reception. Clinics run on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Long-term oxygen therapy

If the level of oxygen in your blood falls below a certain amount when you are resting, you might need to use an oxygen machine for a minimum of 15 hours each day. The majority of this is used during the evening and overnight.

The machine which produces oxygen is called an oxygen concentrator. The machine runs off electricity so the supply of oxygen is continuous. In case of a power failure you will be provided with a large back-up cylinder, to be used in emergency situations only.

A payment is made by the NHS towards the cost of your electricity directly into your bank account each quarter.

The tubes from the machine are long so you can move around your home easily. The engineer from the oxygen supplier will carry out a field risk assessment on installment for the machine to be located near a power point.

The engineer will measure and cut the oxygen tubing to your needs, the objective being to have the minimal amount of tubing on the floor to avoid risks of trip hazards. This will be discussed in further detail with you if the assessment indicates you require long-term oxygen therapy.

Holidays with oxygen

Should you wish to go on holiday in the United Kingdom, the oxygen supplier will arrange a duplicate of your current equipment at your holiday destination. Please contact your oxygen supplier direct to discuss your holiday equipment requirements. Allow plenty of time for planning.

Air Liquid Tel: **0808 143 9999**
Email: alhomecare.patientsupport@nhs.net

How to be referred

You will usually be referred to the service by your GP or by a member of your respiratory consultant team.

You will receive a phone call from the service to arrange an appointment and you will then receive a letter which will confirm the date and time of your appointment. Please feel free to be accompanied by one other family member if you so wish.

What will happen at the first appointment

The appointment will last approximately 90 minutes.

You will be given a blood test when you arrive to check your base oxygen level (a capillary blood test from your ear lobe).

If this level is below recommended guidelines, you will then be given oxygen for 20 minutes through a nasal cannula.

The capillary blood test will then be repeated whilst on oxygen. Depending on the results of the second test, we may need to increase the level of oxygen and do another test.

You will then be informed whether or not you need oxygen at home.

If your blood levels indicate that you need oxygen, then you will be shown how to use the equipment and we will advise you on the amount of hours required and the flow rate.

If you do not need oxygen, depending on the results of your assessment, you may be required to be referred back to the service in 6-12 months.

Who's who

The assessment will be carried out by one of our oxygen assessment specialist nurses, Lesley Parsons and Linda Jordan. They are clinical nurse specialists in respiratory medicine working closely with the respiratory consultant team. Lesley and Linda both have experience in assessing patients in both hospital and community settings.

Further information

Our Oxygen Assessment Service team will be happy to answer any questions you may have. For more information, please contact us on **01271 337811**.

You may wish to visit the British Lung Foundation web site as a useful information resource on respiratory diseases: www.blf.org.uk

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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