Improving Oxygen Prescription Rates By Tailored Intervention on a General Medical Ward

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INTRODUCTION

BTS Emergency Oxygen Guidelines state that all patients started on oxygen therapy should have a prescription of oxygen, which specifies initial rate, target saturations and method of delivery.

HEY NHS Trust has drug card design which incorporates an area specifically for oxygen prescriptions. The prescribing doctor must identify the target oxygen saturations and identify when the levels ought to be reviewed but is not always filled.

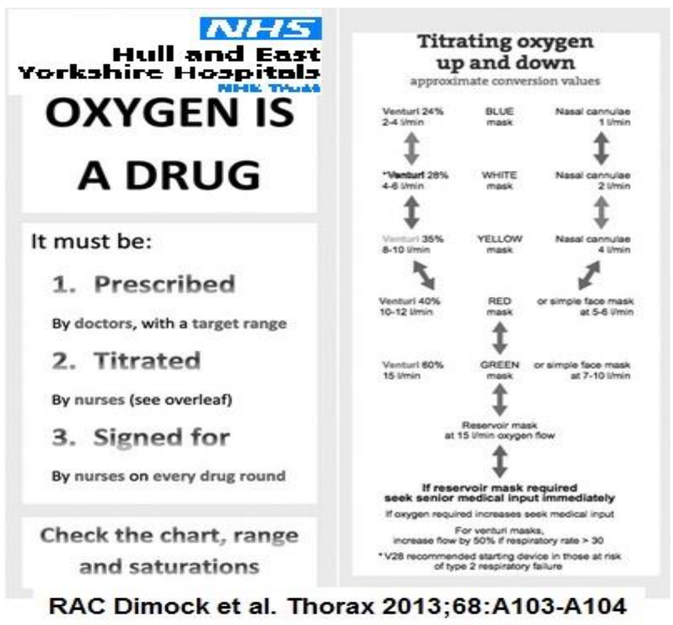
METHODS

PDSA cycle 1: As the first step, a small educational session was conducted among junior doctors on the ward. An audit was undertaken afterwards which showed unsatisfactory baseline of 50% or below for all the standards.

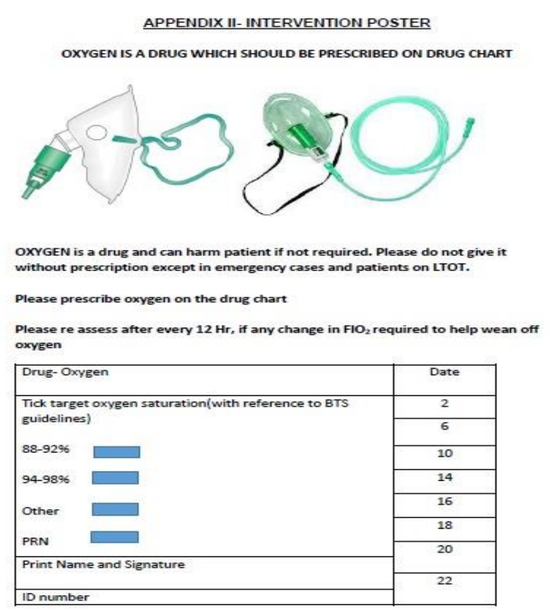
PDSA cycle 2: Recommendations were made to document oxygen prescription during transfer clerk in, on arrival to ward 70, HRI. Oxygen prescription with targeted saturation on drug cards did improve to 62% and 50%, respectively. The highest standard of improvement was documentation of oxygen saturations during morning ward rounds. However, significant number of new admissions were transferred to ward 70 after 17: 00 and clerked in by on-call doctors. This lead to PDSA cycle 3 as below.

PDSA cycle 3: This intervention lead to the best standards throughout the QIP cycles. Due to daily surveillance, junior doctors were naturally more involved in the monitoring process. None of the oxygen delivery was signed for in the last 24 hours after PDSA cycle 3.

PDSA cycle 4 & 5: Despite discussion with new team of doctors on ward 70, every standard dropped slightly on initial audit but numbers were better after



RAC Dimock et al. Thorax 2013;68:A103-A104



APPENDIX II- INTERVENTION POSTER

OXYGEN IS A DRUG WHICH SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED ON DRUG CHART

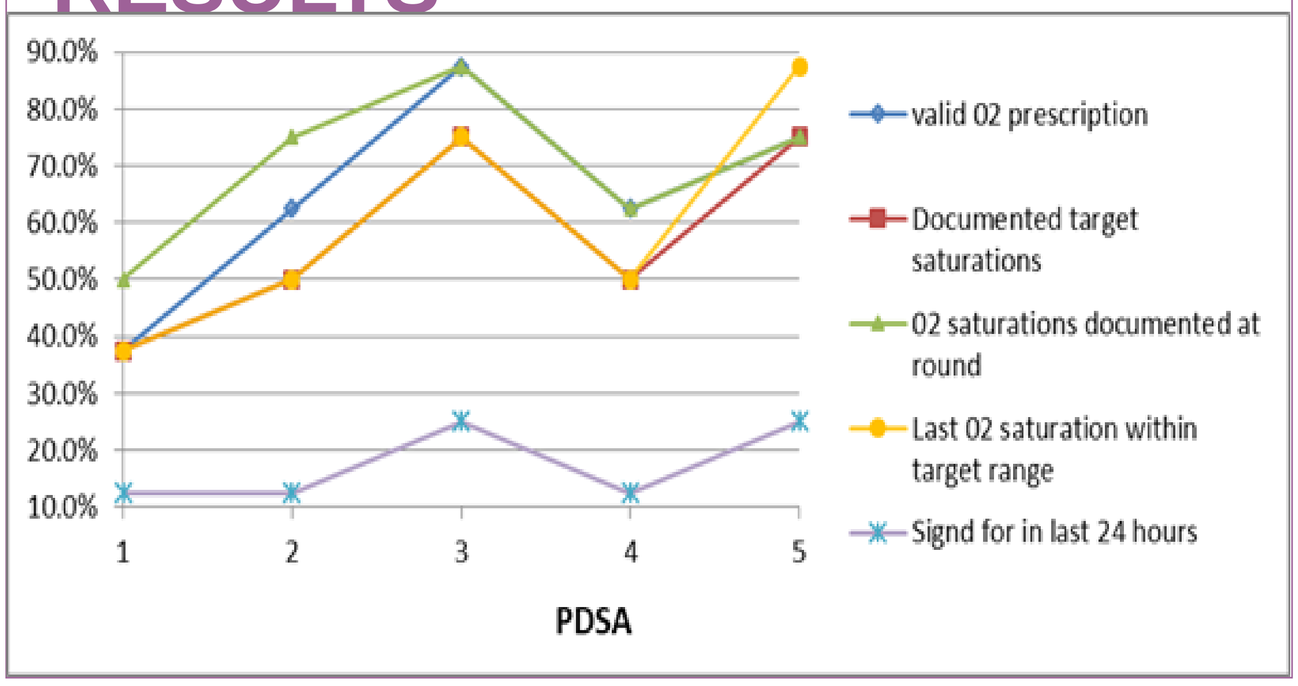
OXYGEN is a drug and can harm patient if not required. Please do not give it without prescription except in emergency cases and patients on LTOT.

Please prescribe oxygen on the drug chart

Please re assess after every 12 Hr, if any change in FIO_2 required to help wean off oxygen

Drug- Oxygen	Date
Tick target oxygen saturation(with reference to BTS guidelines)	2
	6
88-92%	10
94-98%	14
Other	16
PRN	18
	20
Print Name and Signature	
	22
ID number	

RESULTS



DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS

1- With simple effective measures, junior doctors can bring big improvements in the way healthcare is delivered.

2- Inclusion of the educational poster and recommendations of this QIP in the ward induction booklet for sustainability.

3- Trust to consider designing and disseminating educational materials and main audit outcome to junior doctors, nurses and auxiliaries across the trust.

4- We put forward a suggestion to include the oxygen prescription section on the 1st page of the drug card instead of the last.

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