

Oxygen saturation monitoring for your child

Children's Community Nursing Team



Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust: delivering excellence in children and young people's health services

Pulse Oximetry

Is intended to be a simple and non-invasive method of recording oxygen saturations in children.

What is oxygen saturation monitoring?

Oxygen saturation monitoring measures the amount of oxygen in your child's blood. It helps the healthcare team know if your child's body is getting the oxygen it needs.

Why does your child's oxygen saturation need to be monitored?

The healthcare team have decided that your child's oxygen levels need to be measured for a period of time. This maybe before an operation or for children with other requirements.

How does oxygen saturation monitoring work?

There is a main monitor that has a long wire. This wire connects to a cover called a probe (also called a sensor). The probe is put over your child's toe. The probe has a small red light on one side and a detector on the other side. The red light shines through your child's toe and is seen by the detector on the other side. The detector measures the amount of oxygen in the blood.

The machine records all the information for the healthcare team to use.



Will the monitor or probe hurt your child?

No. The monitor and the probe are completely safe. The Nurse will show you how to correctly apply the probe. The nurse will explain that the probe can get hot and mark your child's toe, so will need to be moved to another toe a couple of times overnight.

How long will your child be connected to the oxygen saturation monitor?

The child will need to have their oxygen saturations monitored over a period of two nights at their home when they are sleeping, this will give the healthcare team an in-depth view of the child's oxygen requirements.

What happens next?

The data stored in the machine will be downloaded and sent to the medical team for review and they will contact you with the results.

For further information about this service contact:

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Messages will be accessed weekdays only 9am - 5pm

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

To find out how we use what we know about you (Privacy Notice) or how to access our buildings (AccessAble), please visit www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk and follow the links or please contact us.



If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.