

Respiratory Physiology and Sleep

Oxygen alert card

Our bodies take in oxygen from the air around us. If you need more oxygen, your medical team may have arranged for you to have oxygen therapy at home. Or you may be given extra oxygen if you are unwell in hospital.

Why you were given an oxygen alert card

The medical team looking after you have identified you could be “oxygen sensitive.” This means that having too much oxygen could lead to an increase in the carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in your blood. Increased CO₂ levels could make you feel unwell and might make you feel drowsy and confused.

You may need extra oxygen if you are unwell, this should be carefully controlled and monitored. We have given you an oxygen alert card so that medical teams looking after you in the future know you are “oxygen sensitive.”

Medical teams will control the amount of oxygen that they give you and monitor your oxygen levels closely. They will also measure the carbon dioxide levels in your blood to make sure they're not too high.

What you need to do

Keep the oxygen alert card with you or put it somewhere it can easily be seen in your home. Tell your family or carers about it and let them know where you keep it.



Patient Information

Show this card to any ambulance staff, doctors, nurses, or other medical professionals who you see in the future.

If you have oxygen prescribed at home, continue to use it as usual. **Do not** change the flow rate. Your home oxygen team will review your oxygen needs each time they see you and change the flow rate if needed.

More information

Find out more about how our bodies use oxygen by visiting the Asthma and Lung UK website (www.asthmaandlung.org.uk). Or ask the Respiratory and Physiology department for a BLF oxygen leaflet.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 6734 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us to make further improvements and to recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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