

# NHS @home Operational Update



NHS England and NHS Improvement

## NHS @home update

Issue 8 – January 2022

Welcome to this issue of the NHS @home operational update. If you have any queries about content, or would like to discuss sharing work from your team/organisation, please email [england.home@nhs.net](mailto:england.home@nhs.net)

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### COVID Oximetry @home and COVID virtual ward resources

Resources to support professionals, patients, carers and families remain available on [our website](#). Documents are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest government guidance. For any queries, or if you have difficulties accessing, please contact [england.home@nhs.net](mailto:england.home@nhs.net).

#### For professionals:

- [Standard operating procedure for oximetry at home services](#)
- [Standard operating procedure for COVID virtual wards](#)
- [Application of clinical judgement](#) – please [register for an FutureNHS account](#) to access this information.
- [Frequently asked questions – COVID Oximetry @home and COVID virtual wards](#)
- [Guide on pulse oximetry for care homes](#) by the Care Provider Alliance
- [Information and links to key resources](#) to support the care of pregnant women who test positive for COVID-19
- [Information on the use and regulation of pulse oximeters](#) from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
- [NHS Digital COVID Oximetry @home information](#)

- [NHS Volunteer Responders may be available](#) to assist with the drop off and collection of pulse oximeters.
- [The AHSN Network](#) information
- [Guidance on how to safely and easily clean oximeters](#) between each patient.
- [FutureNHS platform](#) includes further support and resources on COVID Oximetry @home pathways, data & digital, and communications. For access, please email [england.home@nhs.net](mailto:england.home@nhs.net).
- E-learning: an [e-learning toolkit from HSJ](#) and [carers modules from HEE](#)

#### **For patients, carers and families:**

- [Patient diary](#) including step by step instructions on using an oximeter and what to do in case of concerns. [Translated](#) and [easy read](#) versions of the patient diary are also available.
- NHS [video](#) featuring Dr Matt Inada Kim showing how to use a pulse oximeter at home. This [video is also available in a number of alternative languages](#) on the Health and Care video library.
- [NHS animation](#) shows how to use the pulse oximeter and diary and/or app provided.
- [Leaflet: Suspected coronavirus \(COVID-19\): important information to keep you safe while isolating at home](#)
- General information about looking after yourself at home when you have coronavirus is [available on NHS UK](#), including information on pulse oximeters.

#### **COVID Oximetry @home communications pack**

An updated [communications pack is now available on FutureNHS](#). This pack is designed to support national and local teams and contains:

- Background information
- Key messages for professionals and patients
- Links to key resources
- Sample patient information, social media assets and bulletin copy
- FAQs

#### **Pulse oximetry for care homes**

Care home residents remain eligible for COVID oximetry @home and COVID virtual ward. We continue to recommend care homes have one oximeter for every ten residents with a minimum of 2 oximeters per care home. These can be provided through the national supply of oximeters available to CCGs including where it is necessary to replace oximeters. PCN clinical leads or CCGs may wish to check with care homes in their area to ensure care homes retain sufficient oximeters. Additional oximeters may be provided through existing stock of pulse oximeters held locally. Requests for further oximeters from the national supply should be placed by CCGs in the normal way via the [NHS @home: Pulse oximeter request form](#) (100 minimum order quantity). If you have any queries please email [england.home@nhs.net](mailto:england.home@nhs.net).

#### **Assessment, monitoring and management of symptomatic COVID-19 patients in the community**

This [guidance supports frontline clinicians](#) with the assessment, monitoring and treatment of patients who present to general practice with symptomatic COVID-19. There may be local variation in the pathways to access community monitoring and therapeutics. This guidance aims to provide a high-level overview on which patients are eligible, as well as information on how to support your patients to access these interventions. This pathway links to eligibility for Clinical Medical Decisions Unit (CMDU), PANORAMIC study and COVID Oximetry @home pathway.

#### **Virtual wards and 2022/23 operational planning guidance**

The NHS is increasingly introducing virtual wards to support people at the place they call home, including care homes. The [2022/23 priorities and operational planning guidance](#) asks Integrated Care Systems to establish virtual wards for 40 to 50 per 100,000 people by 31 December 2023 and provides detail on additional funding.

New [NHS England and NHS Improvement guidance](#) supports ICSs and providers to establish or expand virtual wards, alongside more in-depth guidance for [acute respiratory infection virtual wards](#) and [Hospital at Home for those with frailty](#), which is a type of virtual ward requiring additional in person care. [Visit NHS England and NHS Improvement's website to find out more](#) and to join the Community of Practice.

**Virtual wards enabled by technology: a multidisciplinary elearning programme**  
NHSX and Health Education England have launched an elearning programme on virtual wards, to support doctors, nurses and allied professionals in the use of technology to provide safe, acute-level care to patients at home. [Complete the elearning](#) and gain an understanding of implementing and running a virtual ward enabled technology. If you have any questions about virtual wards, please contact [england.virtualward@nhs.net](mailto:england.virtualward@nhs.net).

## Events and webinars

**Leading Healthcare Innovation Summit**, Wednesday 9 February

Join colleagues from NHS England and NHSX to hear more about virtual wards - [Developing community-led services and digital resources in remote care](#) and [Harnessing the potential of remote patient monitoring from citizen to patient journey](#). [View the full agenda and apply for your ticket.](#)

**Virtual ward learning network**, 15 February 1-2.00pm

The next Virtual Ward Learning Network will focus on definitions and evolving from COVID virtual wards to acute respiratory infection virtual wards. If interested in joining please email [england.home@nhs.net](mailto:england.home@nhs.net) for meeting details.

**GovConnect - Working with the NHS to improve patient flow using virtual wards supported by in-person care**, Thursday 24 February, 11am-12pm

The webinar will explore the developing approaches to patient care using collaborations with providers delivering treatments in the home to support patient flow. Speakers: Tim Straughan, Director of NHS @home, Jon Green, Former NHS CEO, Jill Ireland, Chief Executive and Clinical Director at HomeLink Healthcare and Dr Andrew Barlow, Director of Medicine at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. [Register for your place.](#)

**Paediatric pulse oximeters – Masimo webinars**

Masimo are holding 30 minute training webinars which will cover an overview of the Rad G, the parameters available, SpO2 Masimo SET technology, Respiration Rate Technology, device features and accessories, how to take measurements and how to clean the device. It will be open for questions at the end. For more details including dates and times please visit the [NHS @home FutureNHS platform.](#)

NHS @home Team

**The Personalised Care Group**

NHS England and NHS Improvement

