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Title: Saving your G --ass !!!

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Body: A national home oxygen service contract review is being undertaken in NHS Scotland with the implementation of a domiciliary oxygen service best practice/guidance Statement. The Respiratory nursing team in NHS Dumfries and Galloway have undertaken a regional review of all patients using any modality of home oxygen. Since March 2011 - 300 patient clinic reviews have been conducted regarding home oxygen use in the nurse led clinics. Findings: Prescription of oxygen is often conducted without establishing that people meet the criteria for this. There is a perception that oxygen is a treatment for breathlessness without assessing for hypoxaemia. Inappropriate prescribing is arising both in primary and secondary care settings. The costs of inappropriate oxygen prescribing are significant. Outcomes: 50 oxygen concentrators installed for those who met the criteria for LTOT resulting in a saving of £ 30,000 in previous oxygen cylinder prescribing costs. 30 patients identified who met the criteria for the more efficient Homefill oxygen system with predicted annual savings costs of £47,000. 20 patients were identified who would benefit from an oxygen conserving device adding further efficiency savings. Oxygen was withdrawn from 12 users who were not hypoxaemic with only two being problematic. Conclusions: Better technology/equipment that meets service user's needs is becoming available regionally and nationally. National Guidance /best practice local adoption and implementation are central to better prescribing practices and service improvement. A successful educational, communication and implementation strategy are central to delivering this new service locally. Significant efficiency savings have already been identified in our organisation as a result of this review.