



# Safety Brief

December 2020

## COVID-19

# NEWS2 and oxygen requirement



### NEWS2 has a binary score for oxygen supplementation

Physiological parameter	Score						
	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Air or oxygen?		Oxygen		Air			

Patients with COVID-19 may have a rapid increase in oxygen requirement, this **may not** result in any additional increase in NEWS2 score.

- More frequent observations may be required for these patients
- Rapidly increasing oxygen requirement is a **condition specific trigger**
- **Clinical judgement** should guide the **need for escalation**

For more information, see the Royal College of Physicians guidance:

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/news2-and-deterioration-covid-19>

#### Published Papers:

National Early Warning Scores (NEWS2) and component physiology in COVID-19 positive hospitalised patients in the West of England

<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-111849/v1>

Validation of home oxygen saturations as a marker of clinical deterioration in patients with suspected COVID-19

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.06.20225938v1.full.pdf>

**For Safety Alerts and RCEM issued Safety Flashes see:**

[www.rcem.ac.uk/SafetyAlerts](http://www.rcem.ac.uk/SafetyAlerts)