

SHIP8 Clinical Commissioning Groups Priorities Committee

No. 34

Policy Recommendation: Pulse Oximetry for the diagnosis of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea

Date of issue: June 2018

The committee reviewed the evidence available for the use of Pulse Oximetry in isolation for the diagnosis of sleep apnoea. The committee concluded that whilst Pulse Oximetry was a useful tool in certain cases the low specificity meant that it could not be recommended as the only modality at present.

The use of pre-screening patients prior to full assessment of sleep apnoea was seen to be best practice using questionnaires such as the Epworth Score. Intervention for sleep apnoea must include education and intervention directed towards healthy weight as well positional advice.

The committee recommends the use of the best value pathway for the NHS

However it was noted that more innovation is expected soon and this statement will need to be reviewed with more granular information about the cost and volumes of this diagnostic intervention

Review date – June 2023

Notes:

Whilst the panel recognises the considered expert advice of NICE in their recommendation the panel also had a duty to prioritise spending of a finite resource locally and made a decision which it felt gave the most equitable and effective use of investment.