



# Improvement: Reducing the risk to patients of using oxygen at home

## Project team: Frankee Nicholas and the Specialist Respiratory Team



### Problem statement:

From incidents reported by trust colleagues through the Datix system, it is known there were 12 oxygen related incidents from February 2022 to January 2023. Of these, three patients sustained facial burns from using oxygen while exposed to a heat source such as smoking or a naked flame. Patients on long-term oxygen do receive safety information from the oxygen supply company which covers elements of fire risk, but not the other types of harm that have been highlighted through the Datix reporting system such as facial burns, pressure damage and falls risk.

### SMART aim:

To improve patient understanding of the risk of using oxygen and reduce the incidence of oxygen related facial burns from three in a year to one, by February 2024.

### Measures to track improvement:

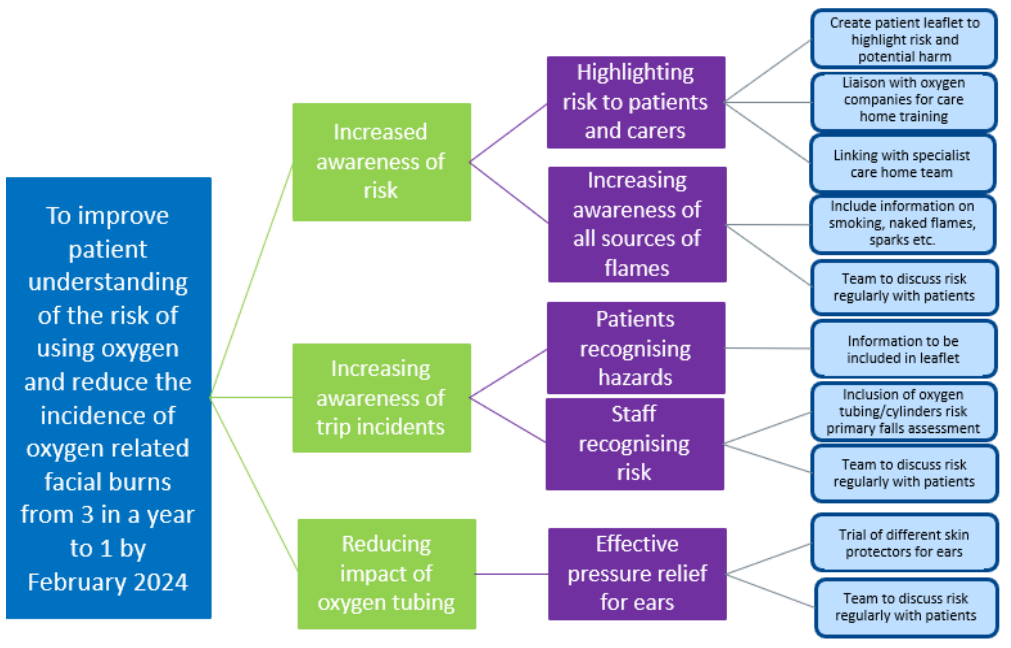
Links to the trust We care strategy ambition of better patient experience through the measurement of:

- number of oxygen related incidents reported on Datix
- type of oxygen related incident.

Patient and public engagement: an initial draft of the oxygen risk leaflet was shared with patients at two pulmonary rehabilitation classes in Ashford and their comments were incorporated in the final version. For example, 'Could there be information about pressure care for ears?'

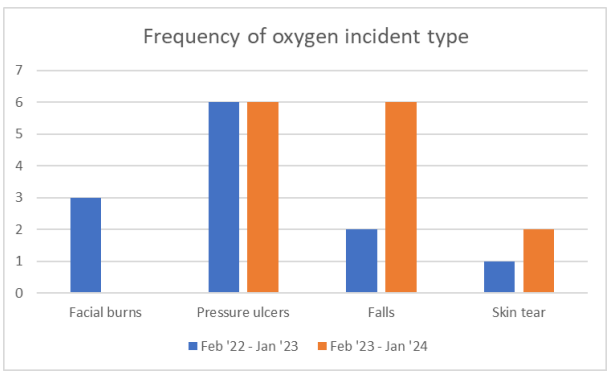
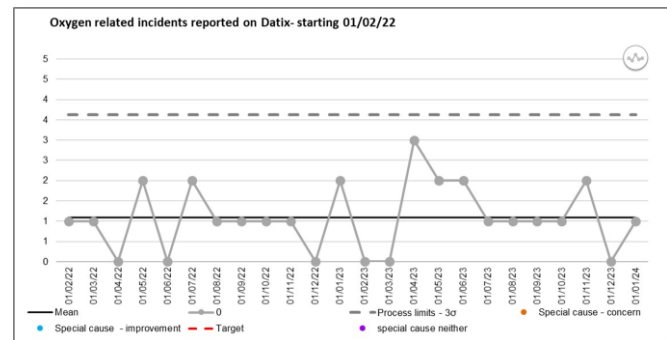
### Tests of change:

- Introduced new oxygen safety leaflet following patient engagement, April 2023. This is in addition to the fire safety video already shown to patients starting oxygen therapy.
- Falls risk awareness within team raised but unable to have additional question on preliminary falls assessment.
- Promotion of team access to alternative nasal oxygen tubing for patients with vulnerable skin in team meeting, May 2023.
- Promotion of oxygen company online training to support care home staff from June 2023.
- One-off training for local nursing home who provide care for patients on oxygen/ non-invasive ventilation completed in November 2023.
- Review of in-house oxygen training to include safety elements, December 2023.



### Data:

The reporting of oxygen incidents has remained stable over the two years, an average of one per month.



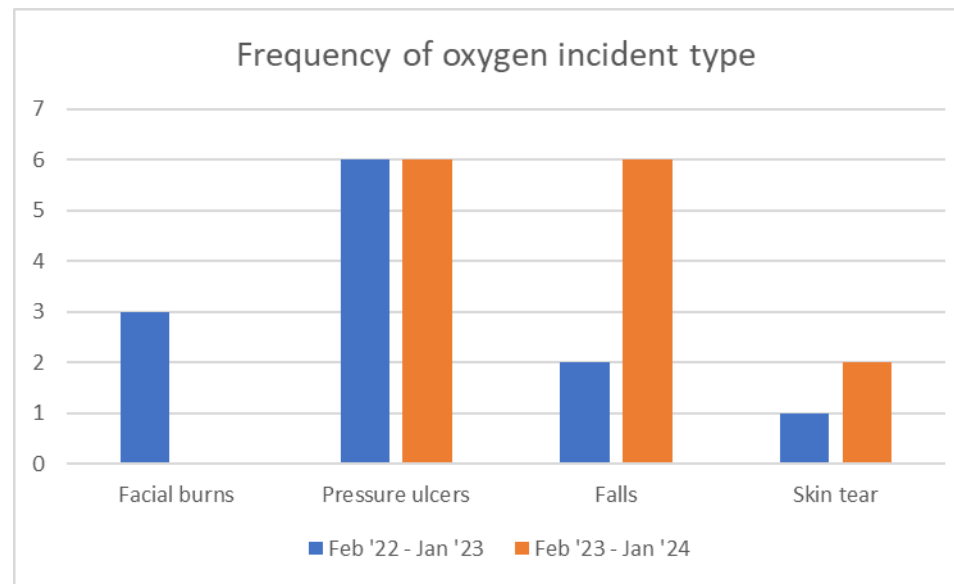
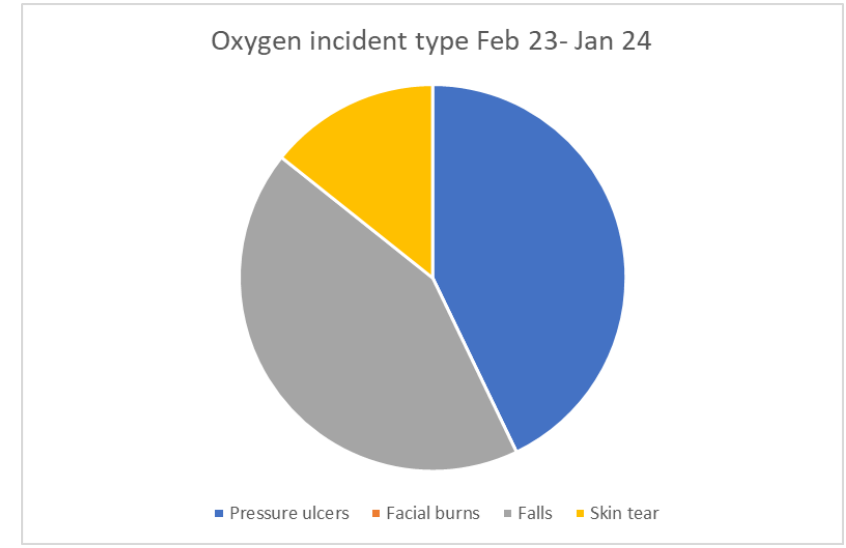
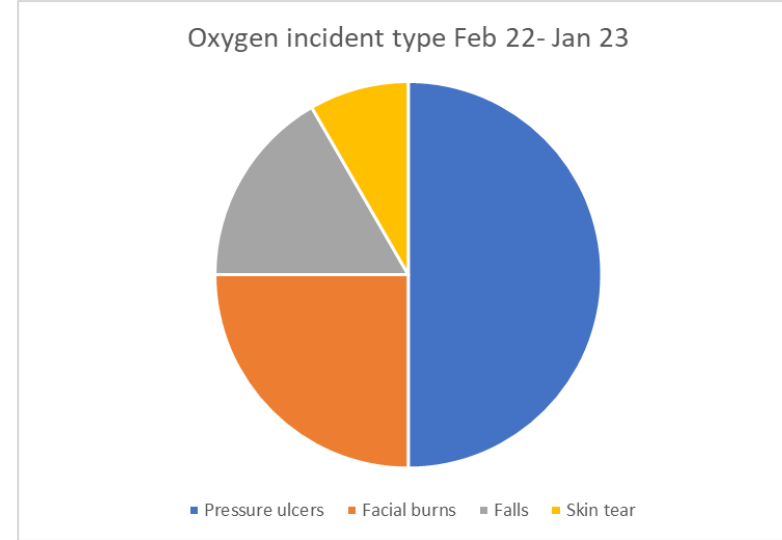
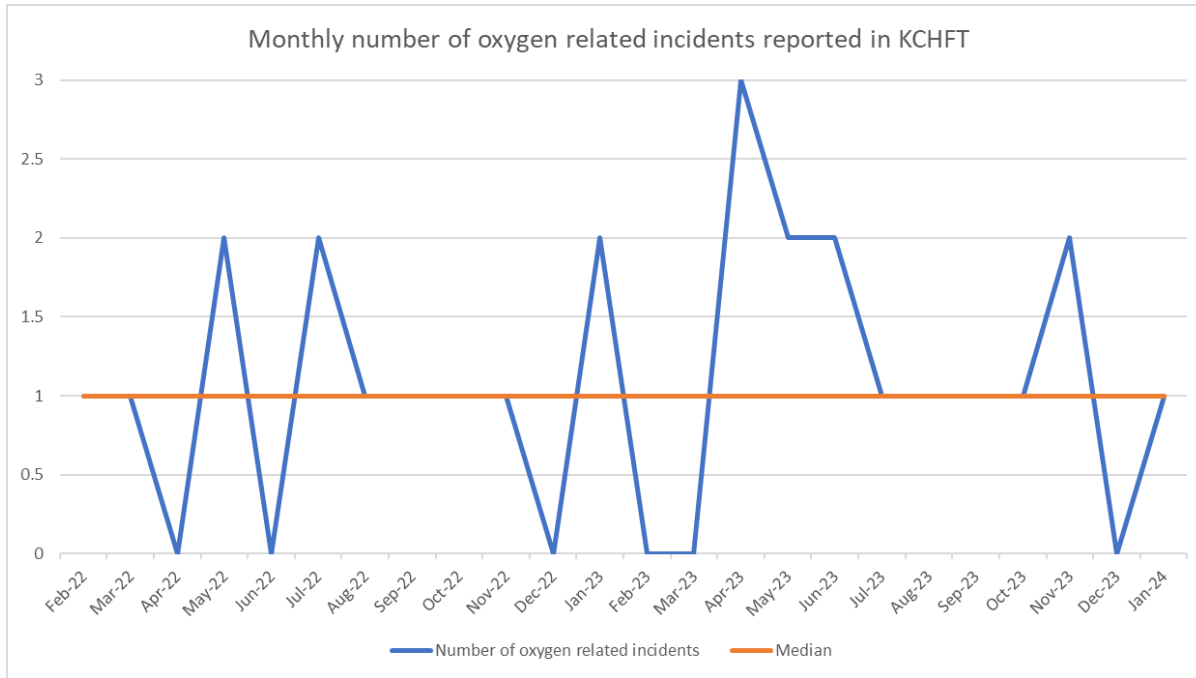
Incidence of facial burns due to oxygen use has reduced from 3 to 0 per year.

### Results, what we learned and what's next:

- There have been no oxygen related facial burns reported over the past year, **this has exceeded the SMART aim for the project.**
- Reporting of oxygen related incidents remains stable, with 14 reported over the past year, compared to 12 the year before.
- Risk of pressure damage on the ears from the oxygen tubing remains the same, with six incidents reported each year.
- Falls reporting has increased over the past year from two to six incidents. The team state this is due to increased awareness of the falls risk assessment and the presence of an occupational therapist within the team who has increased the teams understanding of falls.

### What's next?

The team is continuing to use the new leaflet and go through all potential risks with each patient on long term oxygen. They remain in close contact with the equipment suppliers and are encouraging use of alternative, softer oxygen tubing based on patient need.





# Driver Diagram

AIM

PRIMARY DRIVERS

