

Care of the Critically Ill

June 2008

The Electrode Company

Lightman® from Electrode used as a quality tool at Peterborough

The Electrode Company Ltd specialises in non-invasive monitoring, optical sensors and high performance pulse oximetry. Following a preliminary audit to evaluate the company's Lightman® microspectrometer, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has now purchased its own device, having considered it as 'best value for money' in assessing the viability of pulse oximeter probe sensors.

The portable Lightman® measures LED wavelength and light output within the sensor, wherever it may be located in the hospital. The calculated sensor accuracy at critical SpO2 levels appears on the Lightman® screen, enabling inaccurate and/or faulty sensors to be rapidly identified. When this happens, the hospital withdraws them from clinical use.

Commenting on the Lightman®, Medical Electronics Manager, Geoff Mildenhall, said: "After some early scepticism about the claims for the Lightman®, we evaluated it on several wards and quickly identified two new OEM probes as being outside reasonable tolerances. We calculated that by using the same % of deficient probes in the audit across the whole hospital the Lightman® would quickly pay for itself."

Mr Mildenhall went on: "We now use the Lightman® as a quality tool which will help us to develop a programme of consistency and repeatable high performance. Probes that fail to perform accurately will be returned to the manufacturer. The Lightman® will also help to support any moves to generic products, as opposed to OEMs, by evaluating probe efficiency at source, as they arrive in our department."

Referring to the Lightman®'s ease of use, Mr Mildenhall added: "We have previously used simulators to test probes – but the efficiency figures are difficult to work out. The Lightman®'s screen displays in graph form the exact degree of faultiness we may have present in a



probe. Certainly users gain experience quickly and this ensures that we have better health provision here at Peterborough. We have definitely made a good purchase with the Lightman®."

For further information, please visit www.electro.co.uk, telephone the company on 01291 650279

The Electrode Company: Ensuring accurate data for better clinical outcomes.