

Hospital Management

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ROUTINE PULSE OXIMETER ACCURACY ASSESSMENT



The Electrode Company in Gwent specialises in non-invasive monitoring, optical sensors and high performance pulse oximetry. It has supported a pulse oximeter sensor survey at Lincoln Hospital, which was part of an assessment

of the usefulness of the Lightman probe test equipment in detecting instrument accuracy. As a result the company has produced a clinical Case Study on the survey findings. Recent UK hospital surveys have shown that up to 1:3 sensors in use around the wards and CCUs may be outside their stated accuracy range, thereby putting patients potentially at risk. Lincoln Hospital wanted to assess the situation at three hospitals in the United Lincoln Hospitals NHS Trust. The Case Study discusses how pulse oximeter sensors work and how the Lightman evaluates their accuracy. "26 of the 142 sensors were considered to be unacceptable after assessment" wrote Principal Clinical Scientist/Engineer, Paul Jones, in an earlier report. His report went on to describe some clinical manifestations of patients receiving either too much, or too little oxygen unknowingly. Conclusions of the survey are covered in the Case Study from the Electrode Company, manufacturers of the Lightman test device.