



NCCU CLINICAL GUIDELINES
SECTION: 19

TRANSFER AND DISCHARGE

Section 19: Transfer and Discharge
Discharge Home on Oxygen – Safety in air test
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Neonatology Clinical Guidelines
King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals
Perth Western Australia

SAFETY IN AIR TEST

To determine whether an oxygen dependent infant being considered for discharge on home oxygen is able to maintain his/her oxygen saturations at a safe level (ie. SaO₂ >80%) during disconnection from oxygen for a period of up to 4 hours. (This test is designed to ascertain how an infant would respond in the case of accidental disconnection from oxygen in the home environment).

KEY POINTS

- Parents must be willing and able to accept the discharge home of their infant on home oxygen therapy.
- A medical consultant must order the Safety in Air test.
- The Safety in Air test is ideally performed at night when there are fewer disruptions in the nursery and therefore the infant is less likely to be disturbed when sleeping.
- The Safety in Air test should be conducted over a 4-hour period (usual time between feeds) unless the infant fails the test criteria earlier.
- On completion of the test liaise with the PMH Respiratory Team regarding review of the infant and/or test result.
- The PMH Respiratory Team will determine the result of the Safety in Air test.