

POSITION STATEMENT

Accreditation of Overnight Oximetry in Community Spirometry

Purpose

Position statements from the College provide background information and express or clarify the College's intent on a particular matter. They are intended as guidance for stakeholders in areas where events are evolving or changing rapidly, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, or it is timely to communicate the College's broad intent before or as policies and procedures are developed.

This document addresses the issue of overnight oximetry offered by facilities accredited for community spirometry.

Background

Although insufficient for the differential diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, nocturnal (overnight) pulse oximetry may be used as a screening tool for patients with high clinical pre-test suspicion¹. Accredited community spirometry facilities have approached the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) to inquire whether they may offer overnight oximetry and, if so, whether additional accreditation from the DAP is required.

Position

The DAP's position on the matter is two-fold:

1. Overnight oximetry is not permitted by facilities accredited for community spirometry. The DAP's accreditation award for community spirometry may permit accredited facilities to perform "simple" spirometry, including simple screening spirometry without bronchodilators, spirometry before and after bronchodilators, peak expiratory flow rate, spirometry-forced expiratory volume (FEV₃), FEV₁, FEV₂, FEV₁/FVC, and FEV₁/FVC (with bronchodilator).

References

1. Dumitrache-Rujinski, S., Calcaianu, G., Zaharia, D., Toma, C. L., & Bogdan, M. (2013).