



Issue Date: 8th January 2019

SAFETY ALERT NOTICE.

Drug / Product / Device : Pulse Oximeter Probes

Identified Issue / Concern / Problem/ Evidence of harm.

Measurement of oxygen saturation, using a pulse oximeter probe is a routine part of patient vital sign monitoring and decision making in certain therapeutic scenarios. It has been reported that finger SP02 probes have been placed on patients ears. This can lead to under reporting of actual value by 50% or over reporting by up to 30% with resultant false reassurance of patients saturations.

Actions Required / Risk Treatment strategy

Ensure that:

- SP02 measurements are not taken at patients' ear in a pre-hospital setting.
- Paediatric SP02 probes are available for paediatric use.
- Adult finger probes are only used on adults fingers.

Issued by: Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.