

Bringing care closer to home with the Air Nurse Team

Chris* lives with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) which means that her airways are narrowed and she finds it hard to breathe. Chris has had an amputation due to complications with her diabetes, meaning that she finds it hard to move around. Chris is prone to catching colds which can easily develop into chest infections, resulting in her having periods of time where she is quite poorly.

In order to make breathing easier Chris is registered as an oxygen user and can administer Oxygen Therapy at home, this makes it easier to carry out activities that might otherwise be difficult and help reduce symptoms such as the build up of fluid.

Chris had had several hospital admissions due to her medical condition. She hates going into hospital and is always worried about how long she might have to stay. After her latest stay in hospital a doctor suggested she self refer to the Respiratory Service who offer a rapid response if a patients lung conditions deteriorate at home.

The Air Nurse Team came to Chris's home and carried out a full assessment, including monitoring oxygen levels and listening to her chest to manage her breathing. They prescribed some emergency steroid antibiotics so that if Chris felt a chest infection coming she could start treatment straight away, following a phone consultation. This greatly reduces the need for another hospital admission.

"I can't believe that I never knew the Air Nurse Team existed before! They have made such a difference in me being better able to manage my condition at home and preventing the need for me to deteriorate to such an extent that I end up being treated in hospital."

Chris

For some time health and care reforms have been talking about shifting care closer to home, to reduce pressure on hospitals. Berkshire Healthcare's Respiratory Service is an excellent example of how new ways of caring for people - away from hospital, in their own homes - can support people to maintain their independence, improve wellbeing and reduce the need for hospital stays.

Ask about services that you might benefit from!

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