

Non-invasive Ventilation

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask any of the people involved in your care.

Useful websites

British Lung Foundation
www.lunguk.org
Helpline: 08458 50 50 20
email: enquiries@blf-uk.org

Contact details

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this leaflet please contact the relevant ward below.

Carlton-Coleby Ward
Lincoln County Hospital
01522 573128

Ward 7B
Pilgrim Hospital
01205 445665

Acute Care Unit
Grantham Hospital
01476 464266

Non-invasive Ventilation

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk



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What is it?

www.ulh.nhs.uk



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Non-invasive Ventilation

Non-invasive Ventilation (NIV)

This leaflet aims to tell you what Non-invasive ventilation is and to tell you what will happen. This leaflet is aimed at patients and it may also be useful to relatives, friends and carers.


What is Non-invasive Ventilation

Non-invasive ventilation is a method of helping you to breathe when you are having a flare-up of your breathing problems.

If your breathing becomes hard work and your muscles tire it can lead to a build-up of carbon dioxide and not enough oxygen getting into your blood.

NIV supports your breathing to give your muscles a rest and allow them to recover. It doesn't breathe for you, but gently boosts each breath that you take. This will also help to get your oxygen and carbon dioxide levels back to normal.

You will wear a face mask, which fits quite snugly over your nose and mouth so that air doesn't leak out. The mask is connected to a machine which pushes air into your lungs to support your breathing.



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As you take a breath in you will feel a flow of air from the machine and then as you breathe out there will be a little resistance to help keep your lungs open.

It can feel a bit strange or even uncomfortable to start with, however, most people find that they get used to it fairly easily.


You may also find the machine noisy.

The nurses will make sure that you have your call button nearby and will check on you frequently so if you do find it uncomfortable they can help.

The mask may be removed for short periods to enable you to eat and drink, depending on your condition.

To monitor your progress, a peg-like device will be placed on your finger. Sometimes this may also be placed on your ear or toe. Regular blood tests will also need to be taken, mainly in the first few hours.

Your normal treatment such as nebulisers, antibiotics and steroids will continue whilst using NIV. Generally people need to stay on NIV for just a few days, but everybody is different. Your doctor will discuss your treatment with you. The length of time will depend on how quickly the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in your blood improve.



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Are there any risks?

There are few risks associated with NIV. Some people do get sore skin on the bridge of their nose due to the mask, but we can use a special dressing to help prevent this.

Why does the machine keep alarming?

Usually this is because there is too much air leaking from the sides of your mask. It is nothing for you to worry about and the staff will try to address the problem so that it stops alarming.

What if NIV doesn't work?

The decision to stop NIV can be made by your Doctor.

If you feel that you do not wish to continue with your NIV treatment for any reason then discuss this with your Nurse/Doctor. Plans will then be made to meet your wishes and care needs.

NIV is not always successful. If your blood tests indicate that NIV is not working then the decision to withdraw treatment with NIV can be made. This will be discussed with you and your family before the decision is made. Plans will then be made to provide yourself and your family with the best supportive care available.

