

# Blood Gas Analyser

## EXCITING NEWS:

How many of you have had your blood gases taken? Anyone who has will know the pain and discomfort this can cause. Part of the associated distress is due to the fact that it has to take place at hospital. As you know donations received which are specified to be spent locally are used to purchase medical equipment for use at our local hospitals and/or within the community. During the summer we were able to purchase a portable blood gas analyser.

Before we could do this we had to evaluate patient/service needs (how will it help existing services, who and how many would benefit etc), staff needs (training), costs (initial & ongoing), purpose (assessments, hospital admission prevention etc). All of this information was submitted to BLF, they agreed that it was an important and valuable piece of medical equipment.

Sereca Atherton from the COPD Admission Avoidance Team (CAAT) came to our November meeting with the machine to talk about it with members and answered some of our questions.

- What does this machine do?

The level of oxygen or carbon dioxide gas within the blood abstracted via an artery is measured to establish whether there is an imbalance. The machine can monitor whether there is an abnormal pulse oximetry reading, a change in the patients status, the severity of individual patients exacerbation of COPD and the progression of the disease process.

- Why do we need it?

The portable version will enable nurses to carry out this procedure by taking a blood sample from the ear within the patients' home where he/she feels more relaxed, he/she may also feel more at ease when the procedure is performed by someone known to them. By assessing patients at home, a journey to hospital may not be necessary.

- Who will use it?

Only specially trained nurses will be able to use this machine. Sereca has just undertaken the Association for Respiratory technology and Physiology's *Practical Blood Gas Sampling Course*. She is currently being assessed in practice. The machine will be part of CAAT that consists of 2 speciality nurses & a nurse consultant, headed by Joan Manzie.

- How much did it cost?

In total it cost £6,977.50. £2,500 was donated by PCT and a further £500 from Oribi engineering, Breathe Easy paid the remaining £3,977.50.

If anyone has any further questions regarding this machine or would like to speak to someone from CAAT they can be contacted on **01543 576968**.

## SOME MORE EXCITING NEWS:

CAAT have secured the financial support needed to deliver Pulmonary Rehabilitation within Cannock and the surrounding areas. This is excellent news; we have been campaigning for this for many years. Unfortunately the start date is a little way off yet, as due to a knee operation Joan Manzie will not be able to begin to finalise the arrangements until January. A venue has to be found and a physiotherapist employed, but as soon as Joan is fit it will be all systems go. She will keep us informed regarding the progress of this.