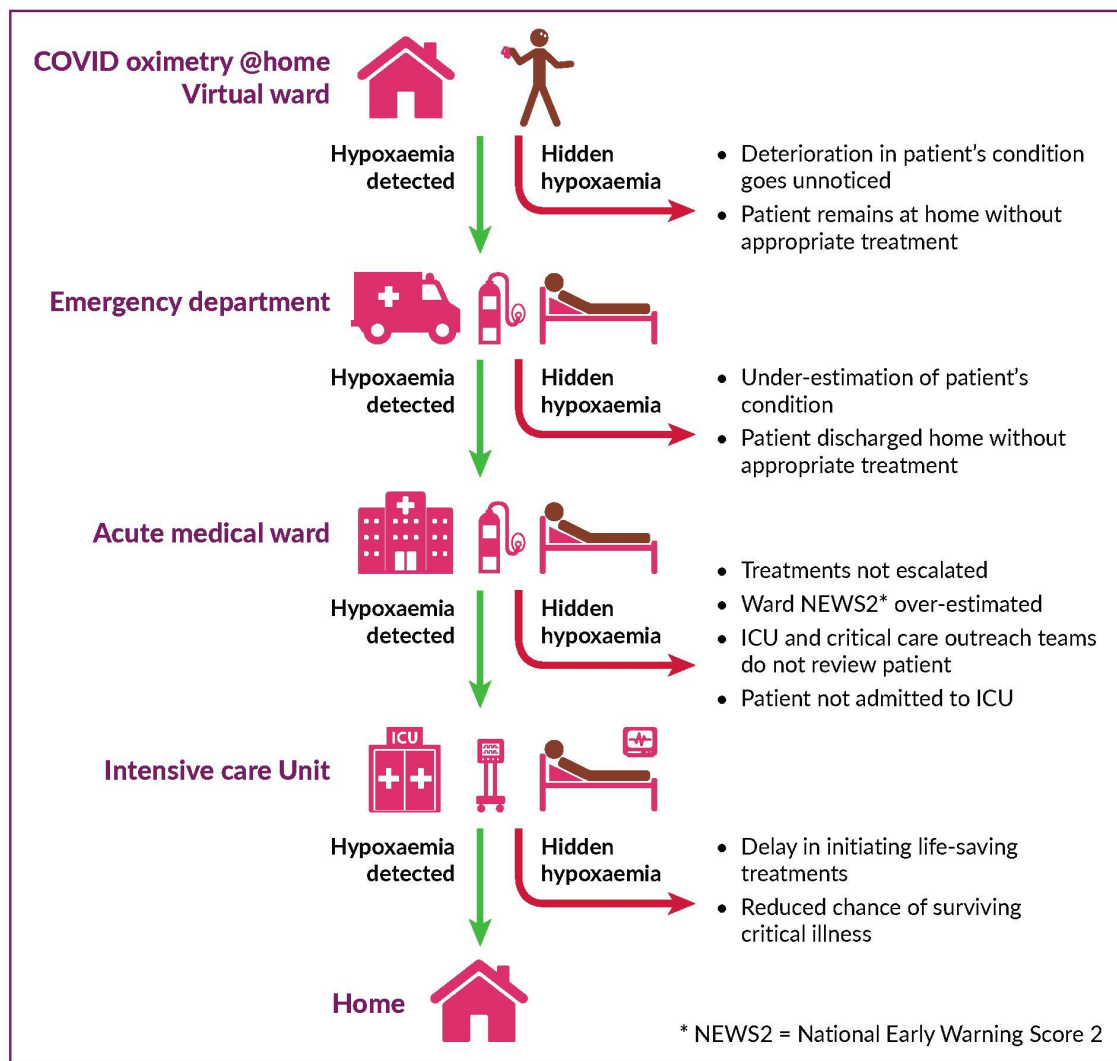


Figure 5: A typical clinical pathway for a patient with an acute medical condition leading to low blood oxygen levels



Source: Professor Daniel Martin, Rapid review: potential unfair biases in optical medical devices. Report prepared for the Independent Review of Equity in Medical Devices⁵⁰

What should be done to tackle racial bias in pulse oximetry?

The search for more equitable solutions is now taxing the minds of many organisations nationally and internationally. Both the MHRA in the UK and the FDA in the US have made racial bias in pulse oximeters a priority focus for systematic reviews of the evidence, primary research on accuracy by skin tone and consultations on new standards and guidance.^{51, 52, 53} Updating of EU and ISO standards for pulse oximeters is also underway.

We commend the programme of work on pulse oximetry that the MHRA has initiated over the past two years, summarised in Box 3. Our recommendations are intended to support and strengthen the impact of these efforts.