Bronchiolitis, a lower respiratory tract infection which predominantly affects children < 2 years of age, is a leading cause of hospitalizations in children.

Bronchiolitis may be mild or severe. Evidence suggests that non-severe cases can be treated safely with outpatient management.

Existing studies suggest it is safe and cost effective for a select group of hypoxic but otherwise low-risk patients to be discharged from the emergency department (ED) on home oxygen (O2).

The University of New Mexico (UNM) Hospitalist Team and Pediatric Urgent Care have prescribed home O2 for several years but this is a new practice for the Pediatric ED.

The UNMH Pediatric ED initiated an evidence-based Home O2 Pathway in 2017 with goals of reducing hospital admissions during bronchiolitis season, eliminating risk of patient exposure to additional infectious agents during admission, and providing patients and families with the appealing option of avoiding an inpatient stay.

The Pediatric ED Home Oxygen Pathway is a safe alternative disposition option for patients with a non-severe form of bronchiolitis and may prevent some hospital admissions.

Further study may compare this cohort with admitted bronchiolitis patients who are quickly discharged (within 24 hours) on home oxygen to identify further opportunities to prevent brief hospital admissions in favor of ED observation and discharge on home oxygen.

We anticipate future steps to include ongoing case review and increased provider education for identifying home oxygen candidates.

The Pediatric ED Home Oxygen Pathway is a safe alternative disposition option for patients with a non-severe form of bronchiolitis and may prevent some hospital admissions.

Further study may compare this cohort with admitted bronchiolitis patients who are quickly discharged (within 24 hours) on home oxygen to identify further opportunities to prevent brief hospital admissions in favor of ED observation and discharge on home oxygen.

We anticipate future steps to include ongoing case review and increased provider education for identifying home oxygen candidates.