

Patient Information

## Respiratory

# Guidance for the provision of oxygen at home

This leaflet is to help communication and prevent misunderstanding about your oxygen therapy. It informs you of your responsibilities and duties when you have oxygen therapy at home.

Patient Name:

Hospital number:

Date of Birth:

NHS No:

Contact Details:

The above patient has been formally assessed by a member of the Home Oxygen Service and Review team (HOS-AR) and deemed appropriate for Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) and/or ambulatory oxygen therapy or nocturnal oxygen therapy.



## Patient Information

**Oxygen requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand my need for oxygen therapy Yes/No

I have been informed and understand the dangers involved when using oxygen therapy. Yes/No

My questions and concerns regarding treatment have been adequately answered. Yes/No

Patient/Carer's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Healthcare professional signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Note to staff:**

Print 2 copies of front page.

- Top copy for patient's notes
- Bottom copy for patient

## **Fire safety guidelines - Oxygen is highly flammable**

**Do not** smoke/use e-cigarettes. Do not allow those near you to smoke/use e-cigarettes while you are using oxygen therapy. Smoking during oxygen therapy has caused serious injuries and can prove fatal.

**Do not** allow naked flames in the area where you're using your oxygen therapy, such as:

- gas cookers
- open fires
- candles

You must be at least 10 feet (3 metres) away. The smallest spark can cause the oxygen to ignite. Do not use any electrical or gas canister equipment when you are using your oxygen therapy, such as hair dryers and straighteners.

**Do not** store the oxygen equipment near a radiator/gas fire or any heat source. Do not store the oxygen equipment in the same place as paint, petrol, paraffin, or flammable materials.

**Do not** use oil or grease on the oxygen cylinder valve.

**Do not** use petroleum or paraffin-based skin products when using oxygen. This includes:

- skin creams
- make-up
- lip balms and Vaseline
- emollients
- wound dressings

They are flammable substances. They can soak into clothing, bedding and hair, making them a fire hazard.

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**Make sure** you keep oxygen cylinders/equipment upright. Make sure they are not banged or knocked over. This can cause damage to the cylinder or the flow of regulator which could possibly lead to a fire.

**Do not** remove the fire breaks (a small white plastic piece) from the oxygen tubing. These prevent fire from going up the oxygen tubing.

**Do not** leave your nasal prongs/oxygen mask on the bed or chair with the oxygen running. This can cause a build up of gas which could be dangerous.

**You must turn the oxygen off when not in use.**

**Use your oxygen in a well-ventilated room.** This is so there is less risk of the room becoming saturated in oxygen and less risk of ignition.

**Have working smoke alarms** in your property.

### **Other safety guidelines to adhere to:**

**Do not** share oxygen with anyone else. Oxygen is a prescribed drug and should only be used by the person it is prescribed for. Sharing oxygen equipment can lead to infection.

**Do not** increase the flow of oxygen. Oxygen is a drug and is prescribed at a specific rate for you.

Giving yourself too much or too little oxygen can cause harm and can be potentially fatal. Please contact HOS-AR team on 024 7696 6734 if:

- you feel drowsy
- you feel muddled
- you're experiencing a lot of headaches or early morning headaches

**Be aware** that oxygen tubing could be a trip hazard. The oxygen tubing could become trapped under doors or furniture and block or prevent the flow of oxygen to the patient.

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Contact HOS-AR on 024 7696 6734 to arrange for the tubing to be fixed around the floor or skirting boards. This prevents the risk of falls.

**Be aware** that oxygen tubing and oxygen masks could cause pressure sores to the ears, nose or face. Check your skin where the oxygen tubing sits, as these areas can get sore or broken.

**Clean the nasal cannula daily** with a disinfectant wipe or with a warm soapy cloth. Never immerse the nasal cannula in water. Discard the nasal cannula after any infections or if it becomes hard/discoloured.

**Clean the removable filter** found at the back of the static concentrator. Wash the filter once a week in warm soapy water and leave it to air dry.

**Be aware** when travelling with oxygen cylinders that they should be secured. The cylinders could injure people travelling in the vehicle if it suddenly stops. Display a carrying oxygen sticker **when you are travelling with oxygen only**.

**Inform your home and car insurance companies.** This should not affect your premium. But you should make sure the cost of medical equipment is covered.

**Inform your electricity supplier that you have an oxygen concentrator.** They can put you on their priority list in case of power failure.

**Allow the fire service access to your property** when requested.

**Allow oxygen equipment to be collected** from your home if treatment is no longer needed.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Home Oxygen Service Assessment and Review Team.

Phone: 024 7696 6734

## Patient Information

**General oxygen safety information can also be found in the patient information booklet provided by your oxygen supplier.**

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us at 024 7696 6734 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

### **Did we get it right?**

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)



#### **Document History**

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