

Respiratory and Sleep Sciences

How we deliver oxygen therapy at home

Home oxygen therapy is supplied in three ways:

- oxygen concentrator
- oxygen cylinder
- liquid oxygen

The equipment must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's safety instructions.

- Never smoke near oxygen equipment.
- Keep the equipment away from all sources of fire.

Do not change the oxygen flow rate on your equipment. Oxygen can be helpful when used correctly, but too much oxygen can be dangerous.

For an up-to-date summary of your oxygen therapy, visit www.baywater.co.uk.

Oxygen concentrators

An oxygen concentrator is a machine that filters oxygen out of the air. Concentrators generate oxygen using electricity, so they do not need to be refilled.



Patient Information

The home oxygen team will discuss how they'll deliver you oxygen at your first appointment. Oxygen is delivered through:

- a nasal cannula - two prongs which sit at the base of your nostrils, or
- a face mask

Long term oxygen therapy

If you were prescribed long term oxygen therapy, you'll probably be given a static oxygen concentrator.

A static oxygen concentrator only works when plugged into an electric supply and switched on.

Static concentrators provide a continuous flow of oxygen. They can be used during the daytime and overnight.

Concentrator filter

Most oxygen concentrators have a filter at the back of the machine. This must be cleaned with soapy water once a week.

The concentrator needs to dry completely before being put back into the machine. Baywater will supply you with a spare filter to use whilst the other one dries.

Ambulatory oxygen therapy

If you're prescribed ambulatory oxygen therapy (AOT) to use when walking and exercising, we may give you a portable oxygen concentrator.

Portable concentrators have rechargeable batteries. So, they can be used outside of your home.

Most portable concentrators provide pulsed oxygen. This means that oxygen is only supplied when you breathe.

Patient Information

Portable concentrators are designed to use when you are moving around. Do not use a portable concentrator while sleeping.

Oxygen around your home

If you use oxygen in your home, it can be piped in. Long oxygen tubing can be fixed around the floor or skirting board, with outlets upstairs and downstairs. This will allow you to access oxygen around the house.

Fixing the oxygen tubing reduces the amount of loose tubing on the floor. This reduces the risk of trips or falls. Baywater can also provide high visibility tubing which can be helpful if your sight is impaired.

An engineer from Baywater Healthcare will assess your house and install the concentrator. They'll discuss with you the best place to put the machine and tubing and explain how to use the concentrator. The engineer will also answer any questions you have.

An engineer from Baywater Healthcare will visit you regularly to make sure the equipment is working properly.

Reimbursing electricity

Oxygen concentrators use electricity. Baywater Healthcare will reimburse you for any electricity your concentrator uses. Please contact Baywater to arrange this reimbursement.

Back-up oxygen

If you use long term oxygen therapy, a 'back-up' oxygen cylinder is usually provided too. This should be used if there is a power cut and your concentrator loses power. Back-up cylinders will last for several hours and can be used while you make alternative arrangements.

Patient Information

Oxygen cylinders



If you are prescribed oxygen to use when walking (ambulatory oxygen therapy) then you are likely to be given oxygen cylinders. These can be large or small enough to carry.

Oxygen cylinders contain compressed medical grade oxygen and need to be refilled when empty.

The oxygen is delivered through a nasal cannula or face mask.

Standard portable oxygen cylinders weigh 3 to 4 kg. Lightweight portable oxygen cylinders weigh 2 to 3 kg. Standard cylinders contain more oxygen and will last for longer than lightweight cylinders.

Converter device



Patient Information

Most portable cylinders come with a conserver device.

A conserver device attaches to the oxygen cylinder and allows you to receive the oxygen supply in time with your breathing. You get a pulse of oxygen when you breathe in and no oxygen is wasted when you breathe out. This makes the oxygen supply last longer.

Your oxygen specialist will decide if you need a conserver and order it for you.

Carrying oxygen cylinders

Baywater can provide you with a backpack or a collapsible, lightweight trolley to carry oxygen cylinders. If you'd like one, contact the Home Oxygen Team and we'll arrange this for you.

Liquid oxygen

Liquid oxygen is normal oxygen supplied in liquid form. Liquid oxygen comes in a large container that can be transferred into smaller containers. This is breathed in as a gas.

We may recommend that you use liquid oxygen if:

- you use portable oxygen therapy often
- you work full time
- you need a very high oxygen flow rate and your cylinders are not lasting long enough

A Baywater engineer will visit you at home to assess if liquid oxygen is suitable for you. You'll need to have good manual dexterity - you need to refill the cylinders yourself, and your house needs to be well ventilated.

Liquid oxygen has to be delivered by lorry and decanted into a tank in your home. So liquid oxygen isn't always an option - for example, if you live in a flat above ground level.

Patient Information

The Home Oxygen Team and Baywater engineers will work with you to decide if liquid oxygen can be supplied safely.

Travelling with oxygen

If you plan to travel or go on holiday while on oxygen therapy, you may need to plan in advance.

- For travel in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, contact Baywater Healthcare.
- For information about travelling elsewhere, contact the Home Oxygen Service on 024 7696 6734.

Contact details

Baywater Healthcare: 0800 373 580

Asthma and Lung UK: 0300 0030 555 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

[Asthma + Lung UK \(asthmaandlung.org.uk\)](http://asthmaandlung.org.uk)

If you have questions or have a problem with your oxygen prescription, contact the Home Oxygen Service on 024 7696 6734. Or email uhc-tr.Oxygen-Service@nhs.net.

All the images have been produced by UHCW staff.

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

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Patient Information

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.

Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback



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