

Home Oxygen

Why am I going home with oxygen?

During your current or recent admission to the hospital, you may be using or have required oxygen throughout or at some point during your stay. Certain heart and lung conditions require people to use oxygen, even after they are discharged from the hospital. For this reason, your doctor may have had your oxygen levels tested to decide if you need oxygen at home.

How will home oxygen help me?

Your doctor has determined that your blood oxygen levels are low. For some people, this may occur when they are sleeping, exercising, or just resting. Additional oxygen will help maintain your blood oxygen levels, reduce breathlessness, and improve the quality of your life.

To determine blood oxygen levels, you may have had a clip on your finger or blood taken from an artery in your wrist.

Getting Started...

Once it has been determined that you need home oxygen, your doctor must write a prescription indicating how much oxygen you need. If you are presently in the hospital, a discharge planner, community care coordinator or social worker will provide you with information and/or a list of names of the home oxygen providers in the area where you live and once you have chosen an oxygen provider, will make arrangements to have the oxygen set up for you.

How much does oxygen cost and who will pay for it?

The cost of home oxygen will vary from province to province. Depending on your financial situation, you may qualify for partial or full funding through your provincial department of health. Most private medical insurance plans cover home oxygen as well. Some other funding agencies, if applicable, are the federal Department of Veterans Affairs and Provincial Workers Compensation Boards.

How do I get the oxygen to my home?

A Respiratory Therapist from our company will arrange a time to set up and teach you on the use of the home oxygen equipment. If you require portable oxygen for your drive home from the hospital, a therapist will deliver this to you and teach you how to use it before you leave. The remainder of the teaching will take place in your home or residence in which you live.



It is preferred that another person be present when the Respiratory Therapist is explaining the oxygen equipment to you.

What equipment will I have?

In your home, you will have an oxygen concentrator, which will provide you with an unlimited supply of oxygen. This device filters nitrogen out of room air, collects the remaining oxygen and dispenses it at a set flow rate.

Because oxygen concentrators can only be powered by electricity, they are usually accompanied by a back-up oxygen cylinder in the case of a power outage.



You will be provided with a 24-hour emergency number in case you experience any equipment problems.

Can I use oxygen when I leave my house?

Yes. There are a variety of portable oxygen systems for travelling outside of your home. The most common are oxygen cylinders, which come in different sizes to meet individual needs. Carrying cases are available for smaller cylinders, while push carts are generally used for larger sizes. Portable Oxygen Concentrators are a more recent option that are compact and battery operated and provide an unlimited supply of portable oxygen.



When used with special devices called Oxygen Conserving Devices, the smaller oxygen cylinders can last for long periods of time.

Home Oxygen Safety

Oxygen does not explode. Oxygen does not burn by itself but is one of the three ingredients necessary for a fire to burn. By following the safety precautions listed below, oxygen is perfectly safe to use in your home.

- DO NOT allow the use of open flame or burning tobacco in the room where oxygen is being used or stored.
- DO NOT use heavy coatings of oily lotions, face creams, or aerosol sprays when using oxygen.

Home Oxygen Safety

- DO NOT oil or grease the oxygen equipment or use oil based creams on your nose (Vaseline or petroleum jelly).
 - DO NOT store oxygen in a confined area or leave it running when not in use.
 - DO NOT store oxygen concentrators and cylinders near radiators, heat ducts, steam pipes, or other sources of heat.
 - DO NOT handle oxygen cylinders roughly. Ensure they are secure at all times.
- * Please note: These are only a summary of general safety practices. We will provide you with a more detailed list upon set-up

The amount of oxygen your doctor has prescribed is:

REST: _____ LPM

EXERCISE: _____ LPM

SLEEP: _____ LPM

USE FOR: _____ Hours/Day

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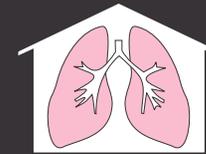
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... from hospital to home

Home Oxygen Patient Guide



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