

Home Oxygen Patient Safety Information and Declaration

Becoming short of breath can be your body's way of trying to maintain your oxygen levels, especially after activity. Some people can maintain their oxygen levels more efficiently than others. The main reason oxygen is given is to correct low oxygen levels, but it can sometimes help to relieve severe breathlessness. Oxygen can also be given to increase your ability to maintain your usual daily activities along with improving your quality of life.

Do

- Use your oxygen as you have been advised to following your assessment. Remember oxygen can catch fire.
- Your flow rate is _____ litres/minute.
Why is this important? Patients can feel worse if they have MORE than the prescribed rate. More is not necessarily better. If you feel drowsy, muddled or if you are experiencing a lot of headaches, please contact your GP. Tampering with the cylinder can cause damage.
- You must switch your oxygen off at the valve when you are not using it, even for short periods of time.
Why? Surrounding materials, including your clothing, will become 'soaked' in oxygen and will ignite if in contact with a heat source or spark.
- Make sure your cylinder is kept upright and is not banged or knocked over.
Why? If your cylinder falls over the cylinder or the valve and flow regulator may be damaged causing problems with your flow rate and the potential for leakage, possibly leading to a fire.
- Use your oxygen in a well-ventilated room.
Why? There is less risk of the air becoming too oxygen rich and therefore less risk of ignition.
- Keep the oxygen mask clean by wiping with a damp cloth.
- Make sure the oxygen tubing and mask are changed after every infection or worsening of your medical condition.
Why? To make sure that you are receiving the correct amount of oxygen and the tubing is not blocked; also that the tubing and mask are not infected.
- **Please inform your home insurance company that you now have oxygen in your home. This should not increase your premium.**

Do not

- Do not alter your flow rate. Do not allow children or anyone unfamiliar with the equipment to tamper with it.
- Do not smoke or allow anyone else to smoke in the same room as the oxygen. This includes electronic cigarettes/devices.
- Do not light any candles including scented candles or oil burners whilst using your oxygen.
- Do not cook whilst using your oxygen, or sit near a heat source in the kitchen.
- Do not store your oxygen in a warm place and do not sit close to the fire when using your oxygen or run the tubing close to your fire.
Why? Naked flames and other heat sources will cause oxygen to ignite. You risk severe burns or blowing yourself up whilst using oxygen. Always turn off oxygen when cooking.
- Do not let others use your oxygen.
Why? Oxygen is a prescribed drug to be used only by the person it has been prescribed for. Also to do so increases the risk of infection.
- Do not allow plastic tubing or the cylinder to come into contact with any source of heat. If you have long oxygen tubing, please make sure it does not get tangled. Check your tubing for signs of damage. Keep the tubing tidy.
Why? The tubing may melt causing the oxygen to leak out. You will not get the correct amount and the risk of fire will be increased. Keeping the tubing tidy prevents trips and slips.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, Vaseline or paraffin-based creams on your nose or face or handle your cylinder, mask or tubing with petroleum jelly on your hands as this is flammable to skin. Use water-based creams.

This Trust is unable to provide ambulatory (portable) oxygen. A referral will be made to your local specialist assessment team. They will provide an on-going assessment of your clinical condition and oxygen requirements which may include ambulatory oxygen.

Please follow the instructions in this leaflet and information given to you by your oxygen supplier. If the supplier has concerns about the safe use of the oxygen equipment they may contact your GP or assessment service to seek a refusal to supply oxygen if risks are deemed unacceptable in your home.

This declaration must be explained to the patient in full (and/or carer where the patient is unable to understand or sign this document) prior to completion. The clinician remains responsible for ensuring the relevant information is made available to the patient and that a point of contact is given for future queries or problems relating to their home oxygen supply.

Clinician to complete

- I have assessed this patient and have confirmed with the medical team that Home Oxygen is clinically indicated.
- I have supplied the patient with a copy of the Home Oxygen Safety Leaflet and declaration which has been signed by the patient/carer and a copy has been placed in the medical notes.
- I have explained to the patient the prescription being issued and the equipment to be delivered.
- I have clearly explained the importance of not smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes) on or near the oxygen equipment as well as avoiding other sources of ignition (such as open or gas fires, cookers and candles).

NAME: (Print) _____ TITLE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Patient to complete

(This part of the declaration is to ensure that you have been given the correct information relating to your home oxygen prescription).

I (patient or carer) understand that:

- Smoking (including electronic cigarettes) whilst using oxygen therapy or around the oxygen equipment is extremely dangerous and may result in a fire causing harm to me or others.
- I will need to be careful with open flames (like cookers/grills) while using oxygen and should not go into a kitchen where there are open flames.
- My house may be checked for fire safety by the Fire Brigade / my supplier.
- **This oxygen is being given as a temporary supply and may be removed in the near future.**
- **If my condition improves and if clinically I no longer need Home Oxygen, it will be removed.**
- Oxygen is a medication and will therefore only continue to be prescribed as long as it is clinically needed and that it is safe to use.
- I must allow Air Liquide (Homecare) Ltd (oxygen supplier) to undertake a risk assessment within the home at the time of installation of oxygen. This will include checking to ensure the home has working smoke detectors; if none are present they will contact the local Fire Rescue Service within 48 hours of the visit (this will not prevent oxygen being installed). Air Liquide will undertake a 6 monthly risk assessment within my home and access must be permitted.
- In order for on-going oxygen therapy to continue, regular assessments are essential to ensure that the oxygen prescribed is at the optimum flow-rate and that the hours per day are correct. These assessments will be carried out both in clinic and at my home. Oxygen is only provided on the assurance that clinic appointments will be attended and access to the home for continued assessment is allowed
- That, at no time, will the oxygen equipment become my property and will remain at all times the property of Air Liquide (Homecare) Ltd.
- I am aware that the use of oxygen with petroleum or paraffin-based creams or ointments can cause skin irritation, particularly around the hands and face as these are flammable to skin.
- I have received an information leaflet from the ward that explains the above information and contact details for someone to help with any questions or concerns after discharge from hospital.

PATIENT NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

CARER NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____