

## Carers Equipment Safety Card – The Home Oxygen Concentrator

A home oxygen concentrator is an electrically operated machine, about half the size of a standard chair and allows for the safe supply of oxygen in the home.



### 1. Features:

- Can be plugged in to standard power supply
- Can be left on safely for many hours at a time.
- Generally placed away from bedrooms because it does make a noise when operating; and in a position that will allow the oxygen tubing to reach common living areas.

### 2. Use:

- Lubricate cannula with water based lubricant, then insert into nostrils.
- Loop tubes from cannula over the client's ears and bring down under the chin, where the clasp is adjusted to maintain the position of the cannula.
- Change nasal prongs as required.
- The machine signals a long beep when first turned on. It takes up to five minutes to get oxygen up to 95 %, but it can be used immediately.

### 3. Safety:

- The concentrator must sit about 20 cm away from the wall and be free of any curtaining.
- Place the concentrator as far away from heaters as possible. Do not use or store the concentrator near a heater.
- ANYTHING likely to cause sparks or flames must be removed from the immediate area such as:
  - \* matches
  - \* cigarettes
  - \* Electrical equipment e.g. electric razor
  - \* clockwork toys
- Do not use oil or grease on connections to wall outlet or cylinder
- Display “**No Smoking**” sign on the cylinder, or on the head of the bed

### 4. Cleaning:

- The filter at the back of the machine is to be cleaned with warm water and squeezed dry.
- Tubing must be checked for blockages regularly and changed as necessary.

# Carers Equipment Safety Card - The Portable Oxygen Concentrator

**Purpose:** To provide information that reinforces the **education and training** provided by nursing or support staff to assist carers to be able to safely use oxygen in the home.

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## Frequently asked Questions:

**1/ Who moves my concentrator if I move from one place to another?**

Your family or friends

**2/ What do I do for sore ears because of the tubing?**

There are products available to pad the tubing – talk to your nurse or GP.

**3/ Can I attach a mask to my concentrator?**

No – unless advised by your health professional

**4/ What is the best treatment for a dry nose?**

Water based gels – ask your pharmacist for advice. Don't use anything unless you have checked that they are safe.

**5/ What do I do if my nose is blocked?**

- \* Use a water based gel as described above.
- \* Adhesive strips will often keep nostrils open without need for medication.
- \* Contact your GP or nurse if there are continual problems.

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1. If you don't feel confident, have any difficulty assisting with this or have any concerns, please let nursing or support staff know.
  2. If this equipment is faulty or damaged in anyway please let nursing or support staff know.
  3. Please contact the Community Palliative Care Service if you have any concerns.

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**Reference:** Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Nov 2007.

**Disclaimer:** The Community Palliative Care Service and all persons involved in producing this information sheet will not be held responsible for any adverse event or loss from the implementation of all or part of this information. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the item this information sheet pertains to, is maintained to a high safety standard.

**Please return this card to the Community Palliative Care Service when no longer required.**