

	Department:  <b>Respiratory Services</b>	Date Originated: July 2007  Date Reviewed/Revised: <b>June 2012</b>
<b>PROTOCOL</b>	Topic: <u>Medical/Surgical</u> – Oxygen for Day Pass (Respiratory Therapy)  Number: B-00-12-12063	Related Links:

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## APPLICABLE SITES:

St. Paul's Hospital  
 Mount Saint Joseph Hospital

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Admitted patients who are receiving supplemental oxygen therapy may occasionally be given a day pass so that they may leave the facility to attend to personal and/or other matters.

These patients may be provided with oxygen therapy equipment for their day pass provided the following criteria are met:

1. The patient is not a current user of home oxygen – current home oxygen clients will be required to utilize their personal equipment from home while on day pass
2. The patient requires supplemental oxygen to maintain an oxygen saturation greater than or equal to 92% (88 to 92% for patients with COPD)
3. The patient's oxygenation can be maintained with an oxygen flow of 4 L/min or less
4. No more than 2 E-size oxygen cylinders would be required to meet their oxygenation needs and time requirements
5. The patient and/or family members understand and agree to follow the Oxygen Safety guidelines and precautions as described by the Respiratory Therapist

Prior to the approval of a day pass requiring oxygen therapy, the Respiratory Therapist will assess the patient to ensure they meet these guidelines. They will then confirm the availability of oxygen for the day pass as requested.

## EQUIPMENT:

- FULL E-size oxygen cylinder (Grab n' Go system)
- E-size wheeled cylinder cart
- Nasal prongs

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Assess the patient for day pass with oxygen inclusion criteria.
2. Ensure the patient is on the lowest oxygen litre flow requirements prior to sending the patient on the day pass.
3. Using the table on the following page, determine the maximum amount of time the patient can be out of the facility on a day pass.
4. Instruct the patient and/or family members on the Oxygen Safety Guidelines and Precautions (see following page).
5. Instruct the patient and/or family members on how to determine if the cylinder is full, nearing empty, or empty. Confirm the maximum amount of time the patient can be on pass.
6. Provide the patient and/or family members with the oxygen cylinder (max 2), wheeled cylinder cart, and a copy of the safety precautions.
7. Document in the multidisciplinary notes of the patient record:
  - Number of oxygen cylinders provided for the day pass
  - Maximum amount of time the patient can be away during the pass
  - Completion of safety precaution review with the patient and/or family members, as well as their level of understanding and agreement to the guidelines

**REFERENCES:**

1. Vancouver Coastal Home Oxygen Program. [www.vch.ca/programs/hop.htm](http://www.vch.ca/programs/hop.htm).
2. Praxair Canada Cylinder Duration Chart. [www.praxair.com/praxair.nsf/AllContent](http://www.praxair.com/praxair.nsf/AllContent).

Although it isn't flammable, oxygen does support combustion. Therefore please follow the following precautions:

- Do **not** smoke within 10 feet (3 metres) of the oxygen equipment
- Do **not** allow anyone to smoke within 10 feet (3 metres) of you when the oxygen equipment is with you. It does **not** matter if your oxygen equipment is turned on or off
- Do **not** lubricate oxygen equipment
- Do **not** use any oily lotions (ie Vaseline) around oxygen equipment
- Do **not** use aerosol sprays in the vicinity of oxygen equipment
- Do **not** store or use oxygen within 10 feet (3 metres) of any open flame (ie candles, wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, pilot lights, incense, etc.)
- Do **not** store oxygen near sources of high heat (radiators, steam pipes, etc.)
- Do **not** store cylinder in confined spaces (ie closet, vehicle trunk)
- Do **not** cover oxygen equipment with material (ie curtains, clothes, etc.)
- **DO** store the cylinder on its side when not secured in wheeled cart
- **DO** ensure cylinders are secure during transport
- Open windows while in a vehicle when oxygen is in use
- **In an emergency (ie your breathing becomes difficult, you run out of oxygen, etc.), return to the hospital immediately or call 911**

**OXYGEN CYLINDER DURATION CHART (in minutes)**

E SIZE	CYLINDER PRESSURE (PSIG)								MINUTES
FLOW	2000	1800	1400	1200	1000	800	600	500	
0.5	941	815	565	439	314	188	63	0	
1	470	408	282	220	157	94	31	0	
1.5	314	272	188	146	105	66	21	0	
2	235	204	141	110	78	47	16	0	
3	157	136	94	73	52	31	10	0	
4	118	102	71	55	39	24	8	0	
6	78	68	47	37	26	16	5	0	

*When duration/cylinder pressure falls into the shaded area, the tank should be exchanged for a new (full) cylinder*