

## Oxygen Therapy

Oxygen therapy may be required if the patient's oxygen levels are low. Oxygen may be provided by an oxygen concentrator machine that pulls oxygen out of room air, compressing and purifying it before delivering it to a facemask or nose cannula, or via small tanks that should always be available in the event of a power outage.

### Things to Remember:

- Oxygen accelerates or feeds combustion and can be a fire hazard. Do not smoke in the same room where a concentrator or oxygen is in use.
- Do not operate oxygen near portable heaters or open flames.
- Do not attempt to make any repairs to the concentrator or backup tank.
- Keep oxygen away from oil, grease or any petroleum products. Do not apply any of these type products to any of the fittings, tubing or accessories.
- Do not use petroleum products on the nose or lips while on oxygen therapy.
- Make sure a 24-hour supply of oxygen is available, especially on the weekends.
- Follow the instructions for the equipment carefully to keep it working properly.
- Select a suitable location for the oxygen concentrator away from curtains or drapes, hot air registers, radiators, fireplaces and heaters. The concentrator should not be operated in a small closet or other unventilated space.
- Position the concentrator so that the operating controls are accessible to the user and the back of the unit is at least 6 inches from any obstruction. The unit must always be kept in an upright position to function correctly.
- Make sure the power switch is in the OFF position before plugging the unit into a properly-grounded outlet, leaving enough slack in the cord to prevent the unit from being accidentally unplugged. If the outlet chosen is controlled by a wall switch, make sure the switch cannot be accidentally turned off.
- When turning the concentrator power switch ON, you will hear an audible alarm that lasts for a couple of seconds. It will take a couple of minutes for the concentrator to produce oxygen.
- Make sure the small black ball is floating on the liter flow line as prescribed by the doctor. To adjust the liter flow, turn the flow knob up or down.
- Always make sure the oxygen tubing is attached securely.
- Know how to connect the mask/cannula to an oxygen tank in case of a power outage.
- Do not change the flow of oxygen unless instructed to do so by Empath staff.
- Make sure the mask fits snugly on the face or that the cannula is in the nose.
- Remove and clean the mask/cannula as needed.
- Place cotton pads between the tubing and skin if skin becomes irritated.

**Call Empath Health if the equipment is not working or the patient has difficulty breathing.**

**Call Empath Health with any questions (888) 855-2838:** \_\_\_\_\_

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