Your oxygen cylinder is designed to provide concentrated oxygen to help ease your breathing. Your doctor has ordered a specific flow rate of oxygen in liters per minute. Oxygen is considered a drug and this flow rate is your dose. Never change the flow rate without consulting with your doctor. You may receive the oxygen via a nasal cannula. Oxygen is used safely in homes across the US everyday. However, you should learn safety measures associated with oxygen use:

- Oxygen is not flammable but it does make fires burn faster and more intensely. You will receive a “No Smoking” sign when your oxygen is delivered. Please post this sign in a prominent place on your front door or entryway. For your safety, do not smoke while you are using oxygen. Every year, people are seriously injured when clothing, bed linens, or the plastic oxygen tubing catches on fire when they smoke while using oxygen.

- Store your cylinders safely. The cylinders should be stored in a well ventilated area and should lay flat to keep the cylinders from falling over. The cylinders may be stored under the bed or in a storage area, but should not be stored in a closed closet or propped against the wall.

- Your tubing should be changed periodically to protect you from infection. Change the nasal cannula every 2 weeks and change the long tubing every 90 days.

- Do not use petroleum products around the oxygen tubing. These products include Vaseline®, Vicks®, lip balm, and other emollients. K-Y Jelly® and water-soluble lubricants are safe to use.

- Do not carry cylinders in the trunk of your car. Cylinders may be carried on the floor of the backseat of your car.

- If you are concerned that there is no oxygen flow through your tubing, place the tubing in water and watch for bubbles. If bubbles are present, there is at least some flow through your tubing. If you are severely short of breath, call your physician or emergency services. If your cylinder is not working and you have no spare cylinders, call Preferred Homecare immediately.

- You will be assigned to a regular delivery schedule for replacement cylinders based upon your oxygen usage. However, please notify us at least 24 hours in advance if your oxygen supply is running low.
To Attach a Regulator to Your Oxygen Cylinder:

1. Remove the plastic tape over the valve (the tape indicates a full cylinder).

2. Carefully place the regulator over the cylinder stem, matching the valve openings with the regulator pins.

3. Tighten the regulator by turning the screw until the pins enter the valve.

4. Attach the oxygen tubing to the regulator and set the liter flow by turning the dial to the number of liters per minute ordered by your doctor.

5. Replace your cylinder when the pressure reading is in the Red Zone (below 500 psi). Remember to call for replacement cylinders when you have no more than 2 full cylinders.

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PREFERRED HOMECARE
LIFECARE SOLUTIONS

Oxygen Cylinder

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<th>CYLINDER SUPPLY TIMES</th>
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| **J Cylinder** |
| 2000 | 4 days 6 HR | 2 days 1 day | 1 day 6 HR | 1 day 19 HR |
| 1500 | 3 days 6 HR | 1 day 1/2 HR | 1 day 17 HR | 1 day 14 HR |
| 1000 | 2 days 1 day | 1 day 15 HR | 1 day 12 HR | 1 day 9 HR |
| 500 | 1 day 12 HR | 7 HR | 6 HR | 4 HR |

| **Pediatric Flow Rates** |
| **J Cylinder** |
| PSI | 1/16 | 1/8 | 1/4 | 1/2 | 3/4 |
| 2000 | 68 days | 34 days | 17 days | 8 days 12 HR | 5 days 12 HR |
| 1500 | 52 days | 26 days | 13 days | 6 days 12 HR | 4 days 6 HR |
| 1000 | 34 days | 17 days | 8 day 12 HR | 4 day 6 HR | 2 day 18 HR |
| 500 | 16 days | 8 days 4 days | 2 days | 1 day 9 HR |

| **E Cylinder** |
| 2000 | 6 days 3 days 1 day 1/2 HR | 16 HR | 11 HR |
| 1500 | 4 days 12 HR | 2 days 6 HR | 1 day 12 HR | 8 1/2 HR |
| 1000 | 2 days 20 HR | 1 day 10 HR | 17 HR | 8 HR |
| 500 | 1 day 10 HR | 17 HR | 8 HR | 4 HR | 3 1/2 HR |

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Safe Transportation of Cylinders in Vehicles

Dear Customer:

If you intend to transport a cylinder in your vehicle, please read this document on the safety precautions that apply. Compressed and liquefied gases are potentially hazardous for one or more of the following reasons:

- Flammability
- Oxygen enrichment (a fire catalyst)
- Toxic/Poison exposure
- Corrosivity
- Cryogenic exposure (cold liquid or gas)
- Asphyxiation
- Pressure Release of Cylinder valve/and or components

The following action steps are recommended for minimizing your risk during transportation:

**Customer Responsibility**

1. Always read the product label to confirm that you have the proper product and to identify the related hazards prior to loading the cylinder. Listen for leaks. Visually inspect the cylinder for dents, gouges, or pits. Ensure that valve protection, where provided remains in place until the cylinder is ready for use.
2. Make sure the cylinder is secured so that it will not move relative to the vehicle.
3. Maintain maximum ventilation in the area where the cylinder is stored (e.g. keeping windows or storage compartments securely open).
4. DO NOT SMOKE when handling or transporting these products.
5. Take a route, which is most direct - no intermediate stops. If possible, avoid heavy traffic.
6. Be aware that environmental conditions (e.g. heat exposure) may cause the temperature of the cylinder to rise to excessive levels (even if the ambient temperature is relatively low) which could lead to a release of a product/and or cylinder components.
7. When the destination is reached, immediately remove the cylinder from the vehicle.
8. Follow the equipment supplier's instructions for proper use and storage for the cylinder.
9. DO NOT transport the cylinder in the trunk of your vehicle.
10. When returning the cylinder, follow the same precautions specified above.

These safety precautions are provided in the Compressed Gas Association, Position Statement, PS-7, 1996: CGA Position Statement on the Safe Transportation of Cylinders in Vehicles.
New Rules for How Medicare Pays Suppliers for Oxygen Equipment

Changes in law require Medicare to change the way it pays suppliers for oxygen equipment and supplies. You will still be able to get your oxygen equipment. However, you should know about the new rules that start January 1, 2009.

How does the recent law change the way Medicare pays for oxygen equipment and related supplies?
Previously, the law stated that you would own the oxygen equipment after you rented it for 36 months. Under the new law, the rental payments will end after 36 months, but the supplier continues to own the equipment. The new law then requires your supplier to provide the oxygen equipment and related supplies for 2 additional years (5 years total), as long as oxygen is still medically necessary.

How does Medicare pay for oxygen equipment and related supplies and what do I pay?
The monthly rental payments to the supplier cover not only your oxygen equipment, but also any supplies and accessories such as tubing or a mouth piece, oxygen contents, maintenance, servicing and repairs. Medicare pays 80% of the rental amount, and the person with Medicare is responsible for any unpaid Part B deductible, and the remaining 20% of the rental amount. By the end of 36 months, total payments from Medicare and you to your supplier would be more than $7,000 (based on rental payments of about $200 per month).

What happens with my oxygen equipment and related services after the 36 months of rental payments?
Your supplier has been paid over 36 months for furnishing your oxygen and oxygen equipment for up to 5 years, and your supplier is required to continue to maintain the oxygen equipment (in good working order) and furnish the equipment and any necessary supplies and accessories, as long as you need it until the 5 year period ends. If you use oxygen tanks or cylinders that need delivery of gaseous or liquid oxygen contents, Medicare will continue to pay each month for the delivery of contents after the 36-month rental period. The supplier that delivers this equipment to you in the last month of the 36-month rental period must provide these items, as long as you medically need it, up to 5 years.

Will Medicare pay for any maintenance and servicing after the 36-month period ends?
If you use an oxygen concentrator or transfilling equipment (a machine that fills your portable tanks in your home), for 2009 only, Medicare will pay for routine maintenance and servicing visits every 6 months starting 6 months after the end of the 36-month rental period.
Why is the supplier not being separately paid for other maintenance and servicing such as repairs if the equipment breaks down?
Because under the new law, suppliers still own the equipment after the rental payments stop and are required to take care of the equipment they have been paid to furnish to you. The supplier can’t charge you for performing these services. This includes repairing the equipment and replacing any parts necessary to make sure that the equipment functions properly. If the equipment must be replaced because it will no longer function properly, the supplier must replace it with the same, or similar, make and model of equipment at no charge.

What happens to my oxygen equipment after 5 years?
At the end of the 5-year period, your supplier’s obligation to continue furnishing your oxygen and oxygen equipment ends, and you may elect to obtain replacement equipment from any supplier. Your current supplier will probably alert you before the 5-year period is over so that you have time to decide whether to obtain the replacement equipment from them or from another enrolled supplier that you choose if you decide to switch suppliers. A new 36-month payment period and 5-year supplier obligation period start once the old 5-year period ends and the new oxygen and oxygen equipment you require is furnished. All of the other rules described in this fact sheet apply to the replacement equipment and supplier of that equipment.

What if I’m away from home for an extended period of time or I move to another area during the 36-month period?
If you travel away from home for an extended period of time (several weeks or months) or permanently move to another area during the 36-month rental period, ask your current supplier if they can help you find a supplier in the new area. If your supplier can’t help you locate an oxygen supplier in the area where you are visiting or moving to, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

What if I’m away from home for an extended period of time or I move to another area after the 36-month period?
If you travel or move after the 36-month rental period ends, your supplier has been paid for furnishing your equipment for 5 years and is generally responsible for ensuring that you are provided with oxygen and oxygen equipment in the new area. Your supplier may choose to make arrangements for a different supplier in your new area to provide the oxygen and oxygen equipment. However, a supplier may not charge you for the equipment, supplies, accessories or other services identified above that are provided after the 36-month rental payment period. The only exceptions to this rule are noted above.

What if my supplier refuses to continue providing my oxygen equipment and related services as required by law?
If your supplier is not following Medicare laws and rules, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. The customer service representatives will refer your case to the appropriate area.

For more information about Medicare’s coverage of durable medical equipment, visit www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11045.pdf to view “Medicare Coverage of Durable Medical Equipment and Other Devices.” You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE.