

**Customer Handbook** 



Solutions for Healthier Living

### **Patient Responsibilities**

Mayo Clinic Store wants you to receive the best possible care and maintain an active role in planning your care. As a patient receiving home oxygen therapy, you have specific responsibilities that will help make your care as safe and effective as possible.

- Provide accurate and complete information in regards to any changes to your personal information such as address, phone number, and insurance information prior to the change or immediately thereafter.
   I understand the Mayo Clinic Store may contract with another home oxygen provider to provide service if
   I move outside our service area, or I may be required to bring my equipment back to the Mayo Clinic Store for service.
- Provide accurate and complete information about your health, including current conditions, past illness, medications and other health-related issues as it may impact your home oxygen therapy.
- Inform Mayo Clinic Store if your needs change (for example, if your oxygen needs increase from 1 liter to 2 liters per minute), wish to cancel service or no longer need rental equipment.
- Report any changes in your home environment that may impact your oxygen therapy.
- Notify the Mayo Clinic Store if you are admitted or discharged from the hospital or begin receiving skilled nursing care.
- Ask questions if you do not understand your care, treatment or services, or therapeutic value or purpose of the medical equipment the Mayo Clinic Store is providing.
- If you feel you are unable to follow the proposed home oxygen plan, notify your treating provider who may adapt your home oxygen plan based upon your specific needs and limitations. If you are unable to follow your treating providers home oxygen plan, the Mayo Clinic Store will inform you of the potential consequences, risks, or other service alternatives.

- Report any side effects or other issues to your treating provider and the Mayo Clinic Store.
- Communicate with your treating provider or Mayo Clinic Store staff what your needs are and if your needs are not being met.
- Treat Mayo Clinic Store staff and property in a respectful manner.
- Follow instructions provided by Mayo Clinic Store and staff which includes no smoking in a home where oxygen equipment is present.
- Promptly meet any financial obligation agreed to with the organization.
- Comply with your treating provider and equipment instructions.
- Make a conscious effort to properly care for the rental equipment and review the instructions and safety information supplied with the equipment.
- Patients will be charged replacement value for equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged outside of normal wear and tear.
- Promptly report to Mayo Clinic Store any malfunctions or defects in rental equipment so that repair and/or replacement can be arranged.
- Patients are required to allow Mayo Clinic Store staff to access equipment to make necessary repairs, maintenance, or replacement.
- Oxygen equipment should remain in your possession and at the address communicated to the Mayo Clinic Store. Contact the Mayo Clinic Store in the event oxygen equipment is being transported or if you travel or move outside our service area.

### General Information When Using Oxygen

- Hypoxemia, or low levels of oxygen in your blood, may result in trouble breathing, difficulty exercising, headaches, fatigue, memory loss, depression or confusion. Some people have no symptoms but may still require supplemental oxygen.
- You have been prescribed Home Oxygen Therapy. This may be prescribed for temporary use after an illness or for a longer duration.
- Your health care provider has prescribed supplemental oxygen which increases the amount of oxygen in your blood. Use of supplemental oxygen may result in improvements to your overall health allowing you to lead a more active life, reduce shortness of breath, and may help prevent other health complications.
- Oxygen is a tasteless, colorless, odorless gas that makes up about 21 percent of the air you breathe. Inhaled through the nose or mouth, oxygen eventually reaches the air sacs in the lungs (alveoli), then enters the bloodstream and is carried to all parts of your body.
- Your prescription for supplemental oxygen, as written by your treating provider, will indicate:
  - A rate of oxygen flow (flow rate) listed as liters per minute (LPM). The prescribed flow rate may vary for different activities (for example, during sleep, at rest or with exercise).
  - How long and when to use the supplemental oxygen each day (for example, with exercise, during sleep, or a specific number of hours).
- Depending on your condition, you may need oxygen all the time or only when you exercise or sleep.
- When used as prescribed, oxygen is not addictive and is generally not associated with unpleasant side effects.
   Failure to use oxygen as prescribed by your treating provider may be harmful to your health.

# **Rental Information**

- The Mayo Clinic Store will provide home oxygen equipment according to an order from your treating provider and consistent with any insurance coverage limitations. Home Oxygen equipment and oxygen contents are typically billed monthly and you may be financially responsible for any charges not paid by insurance including co-insurance, co-pays or deductibles.
- The Mayo Clinic Store retains ownership of all rental home oxygen equipment.
- Contact your Mayo Clinic Store right away if you change your address, leave on vacation, start hospice service or transfer to a nursing home.
- For Medicare beneficiaries, the Mayo Clinic Store warranties the rental equipment for five years. Any equipment found to be malfunctioning will be replaced with similar quality equipment at no additional charge. After this initial five year period, a new five year warranty and billing cycle begins.
- You are responsible for any charges that may occur due to damaged rental equipment.
- Mayo Clinic Store requires you to provide a credit card on file to dispense any rental equipment.
- You are responsible for the safe use of the oxygen equipment.
- In limited circumstances, the Mayo Clinic Store reserves the right to refuse or discontinue services at any time.
- Mayo Clinic Store and its employees are not liable for damages incurred while delivering or removing equipment from the home or for any injuries or damages resulting in the use of rental equipment.

# Oxygen Safety

It is important to understand the risks associated with using oxygen in the home. Whenever oxygen gas is introduced to heat sources, such as cigarettes or open flame, oxygen can create a fire hazard and create life-threatening situations.

- Oxygen is non-flammable but supports combustion.
- Never smoke or allow oxygen equipment within 10 feet of any open flames.
  - This could include: candles, gas range/oven, furnace, etc.
  - Do not allow anyone to smoke in the home where oxygen is used.
- An "Oxygen in Use" sign will be provided and should be visible from the entry of home.
- Do not use oil/petroleum based products anywhere near the oxygen.
- Do not allow untrained persons or children to adjust oxygen equipment.
- Do not allow others to use your prescribed oxygen equipment.
- Never change your prescribed flow rate without first checking with your provider, hospice nurse, or notifying the Mayo Clinic Store.
- The oxygen carrying bag is for use with oxygen cylinders only. Do not carry other items in bag. Do not store flammable materials or materials that may cause a spark or flame.

#### The following are concerns about using oxygen.

· If you are not safe with the oxygen equipment

(for example, smoking) or if conditions become dangerous for staff members, the Mayo Clinic Store reserves the right to refuse oxygen services.

- Your medical provider will be notified of any safety issues. Your medical provider may choose to stop your oxygen service due to non-compliance with the above recommendations.
- In the event of an emergency, inform your local emergency responders (such as the police and fire department) that you use oxygen; this can help them better assist you in an emergency situation.
- Change the nasal cannula every two weeks or as recommended; this also applies to tracheostomy masks.
- If you have a dry nose, do not use petroleum based products. Use water-based products.
  - Examples of what to use: Roezit, KY-Jelly, saline spray, etc.
- All patients with continuous rental equipment will have their equipment reassessed every 12–24 months by Mayo Clinic Store staff.

| CONCERN   | CORRECTIVE ACTION  |
|---|--|
| Patient, caregiver, or both smoke.  | No smoking. Smoking in the presence of oxygen is very dangerous. |
| Gas appliances are in use (e.g., stove, water heater).                                  | Do not use oxygen within 10 feet of an open flame.               |
| Open flames are present (e.g., candles, barbecue, fireplace usage, wood burning stove). | Do not use oxygen within 10 feet of an open flame.               |
| No working fire extinguisher.   | Obtain fire extinguisher.  |
| No functioning smoke detector(s).   | Obtain smoke detectors. Replace batteries when needed.           |
| No functioning carbon monoxide detector(s).   | Obtain carbon monoxide detectors. Replace batteries when needed. |
| No fire safety plan.  | Create a fire safety plan.                                       |

# **Oxygen Concentrator**

- Always keep the concentrator in a ventilated area with at least 12 inches of clearance.
- Once a week, the filter/intake of the concentrator should be cleaned or vacuumed.
  - To clean the filter: wash with soap and water and allow to dry before replacing.
- Check the concentrator daily to make sure the equipment is working properly.
  - Make sure the appropriate lights are displayed as well as correct oxygen liter flow in use.
- Oxygen tubing should never be longer than 50 feet as it may restrict oxygen output. For patients with an oxygen liter flow greater than or equal to 5 LPM, tubing length should not exceed 25 feet.
- Notify your electric company that oxygen equipment is being used in your home. This may prevent discontinuation of service during peak use times. Also, in the event of a power failure, your home may be prioritized in re-establishing service.
- If a problem arises with the equipment, never attempt to make repairs or adjustments. Contact the Mayo Clinic Store.
- Use electrical outlets that are adequate for the equipment; avoid extension cords.
- Persons who have not read the operating instructions should not operate the equipment.
- If an alarm sounds, use the troubleshooting guide provided. If needed, use a backup system and/or call Mayo Clinic Stores 24/7 on call support.
- If a PAP device is prescribed, the PAP device should be turned on before adding oxygen to prevent possible electrical issues or fire.
- If a humidifier is prescribed, the humidifier bottle should be emptied and refilled daily, cleaned twice a week and replaced monthly.

### Portable Oxygen

- $\cdot\,$  Do not leave oxygen equipment on when not in use.
- Store cylinders in a well ventilated area; do not store in a closet.
- Oxygen cylinders should be secured in a rack or laying down and should be stored away from heat.
- Do not abuse or handle oxygen cylinders roughly.
- When needing additional oxygen cylinders, patients are required to provide Mayo Clinic Store a 48 hour notice for delivery. No deliveries on weekends or after hours. Delivery times may vary and Mayo Clinic Store cannot guarantee delivery times. Patient, or another individual, must be present to receive delivery.

### **Emergency Backup Oxygen**

- In the event of a concentrator device failure or a loss of power, Mayo Clinic Store will provide an emergency oxygen backup system to ensure you have a minimum supply of oxygen.
- Emergency oxygen backup system is to be used in an emergency only.
- Patients may be financially responsible to refill emergency oxygen backup systems if used during a non-emergency.

# **Traveling With Oxygen**

- Never transport cylinders in the trunk or rear of your vehicle (back seat is okay).
- Always secure cylinders so they do not roll around.
- When the temperature outside is above 70°F, please allow for proper ventilation.
- If you are planning to travel long distances, please contact the Mayo Clinic Store well in advance of your travel.
- When traveling, always keep a copy of your oxygen prescription for reference.

# **Oxygen Cylinder Duration Chart** This chart is intended to be used only as a guide.

| PEDIATRIC   | USE TIMES (SHOWN IN HOURS) |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |
|---|----------------------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| Flow Rate:  |                            |     |      | 2 (0.5) |      |      |      |      |
| E (2000 PSI)  | <u>`</u>                   |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |
| Continuous Flow   | 361.6 180.8 90.4 45.2 22.6 |     |      |         |      | 22.6 |      |      |
| ADULT   | USE TIMES (SHOWN IN HOURS) |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |
| Flow Rate:  | 1                          | 1.5 | 2    | 2.5     | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    |
| B (2000 PSI)  |                            |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |
| Pulse Dose  | 10.5                       | NA  | 6.2  | NA      | 4.3  | 3.5  | 3    | 2.6  |
| Continuous Flow   | 2.7                        | 1.8 | 1.4  | 1.1     | 0.9  | .7   | .6   | .5   |
| D (2000 psi)  |                            |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |
| Pulse Dose  | 27.2                       | NA  | 16.1 | NA      | 11.1 | 9.1  | 7.7  | 6.8  |
| Continuous Flow   | 6.9                        | 4.6 | 3.5  | 2.8     | 2.3  | 1.7  | 1.4  | 1.2  |
| E (2000 PSI)  |                            |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |
| Pulse Dose  | 43.6                       | NA  | 25.8 | NA      | 17.7 | 14.5 | 12.3 | 10.9 |
| Continuous Flow   | 11.3                       | 8.5 | 5.6  | 4.7     | 3.8  | 2.8  | 2.3  | 1.9  |
| Estimated cylinder duration in hours (based on 20 breaths per minute) |                            |     |      |         |      |      |      |      |

If using a 3000 PSI oxygen cylinder, add 40% to calculate duration of cylinder.

### **Oxygen Cylinder Size and Weight**

| NAME                  | В   | D    | E    |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|
| Diameter (inches)     | 3.2 | 4.3  | 4.3  |
| Height (inches)       | 12  | 16.5 | 25.5 |
| Empty Weight (pounds) | 2.2 | 5.3  | 7.9  |

### **Oxygen Humidifier Bubbler Cleaning Instructions**

Proper cleaning of the humidifier will prevent growth of harmful bacteria reducing the risk of infection.

- 1 Detach humidifier bottle from concentrator. Remove cannula from lid and detach lid from bottle.
- 2 Wash both bottle and lid in warm water and a mild detergent, rinse both to remove any excess soap.
- 3 Let humidifier parts dry completely before reconnecting to your oxygen concentrator.
- 4 Fill humidifier bottle with distilled water to the fill line and reattach the bottle to your oxygen concentrator.



### Using Your Oxygen Regulator or Conserving Device

# Attaching Your Oxygen Regulator/Conserving Device to the Cylinder

- 1 Remove plastic dust cap and plastic washer from the cylinder post.
- 2 Loosen the T-handle on the regulator.
- 3 Lower the oxygen regulator over the post of the cylinder.
- 4 Align the pins of the regulator to the holes in the cylinder post.
- 5 Hand-tighten the T-handle until the regulator is secure.

### Using Your Oxygen Regulator/Conserving Device

- 1 Open the cylinder with the wrench provided.
- 2 Check the contents gauge on the regulator.
- 3 Attach the standard nasal cannula with tubing to the regulator and to your nose and face.
- 4 Turn the flow selector knob to the correct prescription flow setting.
- 5 Breathe normally.
- 6 Consult "Oxygen Cylinder Duration Chart" for estimated usage time.
- 7 When you are finished using the oxygen regulator, turn the cylinder off by using the wrench provided and turn the flow selector/rotary selector to the "off" or "0" position.

# **Concentrator Troubleshooting**

| PROBLEM  | CAUSE/FAULT                                      | ACTION  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| No oxygen seems to be<br>flowing through the system. | Cannula or nipple adapter                        | 1 Place the end of the cannula in a glass of water<br>and look for steady flow of bubbles. If you <b>can</b> see<br>the bubbles, oxygen is flowing through the tubing.      |  |  |
|  | (green adapter) is not<br>connected tightly      | 2 If you <b>cannot</b> see any bubbles, check to see that<br>the cannula is connected tightly to the oxygen<br>system and that the nipple adapter is screwed<br>on tightly. |  |  |
|  | Tubing kinked                                    | Check tubing for bends, kinks or other obstructions.  |  |  |
|  | Obstructed humidifier bottle                     | Disconnect the humidifier bottle. If flow is restored, replace with a new humidifier.   |  |  |
| Unable to dial prescribed flow rate.                 | Obstruction in tubing                            | Disconnect tubing. If the flow rate is restored, replace with new tubing.   |  |  |
|  | Obstruction in cannula                           | Disconnect cannula from tubing. If the proper flow rate is restored, replace with a new cannula.  |  |  |
|  | Plug is not firmly in wall                       | Check plug at outlet. Push plug back into outlet.   |  |  |
| Unit is not operating                                | Concentrator circuit breaker<br>has been set off | Shut off concentrator and then turn back on to reset circuit.   |  |  |
| (power failure alarm<br>sounds).                     | No power at wall outlet                          | Check power source (fuse or circuit breaker).<br>Wall switch that controls plug may be switched off.<br>Try another plug.   |  |  |
|  | Electrical power outage                          | Switch to backup system until power is restored.  |  |  |
| Temperature light/alarm<br>is on.                    |  | Check to see that unit is not obstructed by drapes, bedspread or wall.  |  |  |
|  | Unit is overheated                               | Check to see if filters are clean.  |  |  |
|  |  | Turn unit off and use the backup system for<br>30 minutes while the concentrator is cooling.<br>Restart the concentrator.   |  |  |

# Portable Oxygen Troubleshooting

| PROBLEM  | CAUSE/FAULT   | ACTION   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| No oxygen coming<br>from cannula.                | Empty cylinder  | Check pressure gauge for oxygen contents. If cylind<br>is empty, remove the regulator and replace with a<br>new full cylinder. |  |  |
|  | Decreased awareness<br>of oxygen flow                 | Place cannula prongs in glass of water. If you<br>observe bubbles coming from cannula, your unit is<br>working correctly.      |  |  |
|  | Faulty cannula  | Remove cannula and check for kinks or obstruction.<br>Replace with new cannula if needed.                                      |  |  |
|  | Loose connection                                      | Check all connections, especially the humidifier<br>bottle to the regulator and the humidifier on top of<br>the jar.           |  |  |
|  | Plugged humidifier bottle                             | Remove the humidifier bottle. If flow is restored, clean or replace with a new humidifier bottle.                              |  |  |
|  | Cylinder valve is closed or liter control knob is OFF | Check the cylinder valve to make sure it is open.<br>Check the flow meter to make sure it is ON.                               |  |  |
|  | Possible faulty regulator                             | Never attempt to take apart and fix yourself.  |  |  |
| Oxygen cylinder hisses<br>and is leaking oxygen. | Regulator is not tightly attached                     | Turn the oxygen off. Check and tighten connection between the regulator and the cylinder.                                      |  |  |
|  | Faulty washer   | Replace the washer.  |  |  |
|  | Faulty regulator                                      | Never attempt to take apart and fix yourself.  |  |  |

# Portable Concentrator Troubleshooting

| PROBLEM  | CAUSE/FAULT  | ACTION  |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| No oxygen seems to be<br>flowing through the system. | Cannula is not   | 1 Place the end of the cannula in a glass of water<br>and look for steady flow of bubbles. If you <b>can</b> see<br>the bubbles, oxygen is flowing through the tubing.      |  |
|  | connected tightly  | 2 If you <b>cannot</b> see any bubbles, check to see that<br>the cannula is connected tightly to the oxygen<br>system and that the nipple adapter is screwed<br>on tightly. |  |
|  | Tubing kinked  | Check tubing for bends, kinks or other obstructions.  |  |
| Unable to dial prescribed flow rate.                 | Obstructed humidifier bottle   | Disconnect the humidifier bottle. If flow is restored, replace with a new humidifier.   |  |
|  | Obstruction in tubing Disconnect tubing. If the flow rate is restored with new tubing. |   |  |
|  | Obstruction in cannula   | Disconnect cannula from tubing. If the proper flow rate is restored, replace with a new cannula.  |  |
|  | Battery not charged  | Check battery level. Charge battery if needed.  |  |
| Unit is not operating                                | No power   | Check power source (fuse or circuit breaker). Wall<br>switch that controls plug may be switched off. Try<br>another plug.   |  |
| Unit is alarming                                     | No breath alarm  | Verify cannula is connected to unit and positioned in the nose properly.  |  |
|  | Battery level low  | Connect the unit to A/C or D/C charger to charge the unit.  |  |
|  | Unit overheating   | Check and clear the intake and exhaust areas.   |  |

# Cylinder Refill System Troubleshooting

| PROBLEM  | CAUSE/FAULT  | ACTION  |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| Power switch is on but no<br>LEDs are illuminated.                           | Device is not plugged in or<br>there<br>is a power failure | Check the power outlet and verify that the device is plugged in.  |  |
|  | Unit was not started properly                              | <ol> <li>Turn unit on and allow for low O<sub>2</sub> light to turn off.</li> <li>Press the start/stop button to fill the cylinder.</li> </ol>  |  |
| Cylinder is connected but not filling.                                       | Cylinder is not fully connected                            | Press the cylinder disconnect button and remove the cylinder. Verify there is no obstruction to the cylinder fill connection. Retry connecting the cylinder with firm downward force.   |  |
|  | Cylinder is not fully closed                               | Press the cylinder disconnect button and remove the cylinder. Verify that the tank is in the closed position.   |  |
| Yellow LED is illuminated or blinking.                                       | Incorrect oxygen pressure from the concentrator            | Verify that the oxygen concentrator and fill unit are connected properly. Check for kinked or obstructed tubing.  |  |
|  | The fill unit has detected low oxygen purity               | Press the start/stop button. Check the flow meter on<br>the concentrator and verify the flow is $\leq 3$ LPM<br>(5 L concentrator) or $\leq 7$ LPM (10 L concentrator).<br>Wait five minutes and press the start/stop button.   |  |
| Red LED is illuminated   | Average oxygen purity in the cylinder is below 90%         | Press the stop button. Disconnect the cylinder from<br>the device and empty it. Do not use the cylinder.<br>Check the flow meter on the concentrator and verify<br>the flow is $\leq$ 3 LPM (5 L concentrator) or $\leq$ 7 LPM<br>(10 L concentrator). Wait five minutes. |  |
| or blinking.   |  | 1 Check the cylinder to verify it is full.  |  |
|  | The device has detected a problem with the cylinder        | 2 Check the cylinder to verify it is closed.  |  |
|  |  | 3 Check that the cylinder is connected properly.  |  |
| Red LED is illuminated<br>and the audible alarm is<br>sounding continuously. | The device has detected a system malfunction               | Verify the cylinder is centered. If not, adjust it until it<br>is sitting correctly on the Cylinder Rest. Otherwise,<br>turn off the device and wait five minutes. Restart<br>the device.   |  |

### **Items Required for Initial Setup**

- Valid home oxygen prescription.
- Appropriate diagnostic testing, as required by your insurance, supporting provider's oxygen prescription.
- Confirmation of a face-to-face visit with your treating provider documenting your medical condition and need for oxygen.
- Updated insurance and demographic information.

# **Beneficiaries Entering Medicare**

For patients receiving home oxygen therapy under different insurance and transitioning to Medicare, Medicare requires the Mayo Clinic Store obtain the following documentation:

- A record of a face-to-face visit with your treating provider discussing your medical condition and requirement for home oxygen therapy during the time of need.
- An additional face-to-face visit with your treating provider, after the transition to Medicare, showing a continued medical need for home oxygen therapy.
- Documentation of a previous qualifying diagnostic testing. If previous diagnostic testing does not meet Medicare billing criteria, new diagnostic testing may be required.

### Switching Oxygen Suppliers Documentation Requirements

If switching from another home oxygen supplier, the Mayo Clinic Store will need the following information to provide home oxygen equipment and bill your insurance:

- Current insurance information and demographics.
- The Mayo Clinic Store will determine patient eligibility to transfer based on number of months billed by the previous home oxygen provider.
- Original or current testing qualifying the patient for home oxygen therapy.
- New prescription and face-to-face office visit documentation within one month of supplier transfer. This must be obtained by the Mayo Clinic Store prior to dispensing any home oxygen equipment.

### Yearly Oxygen Billing Requirements

Every year, the Mayo Clinic Store will require the following documentation to bill your insurance:

- Confirmation of a face-to-face visit with your treating provider documenting your medical condition and need for oxygen.
- For continued coverage, some diagnosis or qualifying saturations require you to show continued need. This will require you to see your provider within 61–90 days of initial setup to keep your oxygen equipment past 90 days.
- Updated prescription for home oxygen which includes your prescribed liter flow, frequency, and duration of need.
- Your provider may require further testing to ensure your current oxygen equipment is continuing to meet your medical needs.
- Failure to use your oxygen equipment as prescribed by your treating provider may result in non-coverage by your insurance.

### **Home Safety Information**

#### E.D.I.T.H - EXIT DRILLS IN THE HOME FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION



**Draw a floor plan** of your home and mark two ways out of every room, especially the bedrooms. Go over these escape routes with every member of your household.

**Agree** on a meeting place outside your house where every member of the household will meet after escaping a fire and wait there for the fire department to arrive. This lets you count heads to make sure everyone is there and to tell the fire department if anyone is missing.

**Practice** your escape plan at least a couple times a year. Hold a fire drill in your home. Appoint someone to be a monitor and have everyone take part in the drill. A fire drill is not a race, but practice to get out quickly. Remember to be careful.

**Make your fire drill realistic.** Pretend that some exits are blocked by fire and practice getting out different escape routes. Pretend that the lights are out and that some escape routes are getting smoke in them.

Having smoke alarms with working smoke detectors cuts your risk of dying in a home fire almost in half. Install smoke detectors outside of every bedroom and on every level of your home including the basement. Follow the installation instructions carefully. Change smoke detector batteries at least once every year.

### **Home Fall Prevention Checklist**

Each year, thousands of older Americans fall at home. Many of them are seriously injured and some are disabled. Falls are often due to hazards that are easy to overlook but easy to fix. This checklist will help you find and fix those hazards in your home. The checklist asks about hazards found in each room of your home. For each hazard, the checklist tells you how to fix the problem. At the end of the checklist, you will find other tips for preventing falls.

#### FLOORS

Have a clear path from room to room.

#### STAIRS AND STEPS

Fix loose or uneven steps; make sure carpet is firmly attached to every step.

#### **KITCHEN**

Move items in your cabinets; keep things you use often on the lower shelves (about waist level), if you must use a step stool, get one with a bar to hold on to; never use a chair as a step stool.

#### BATHROOMS

Put a non-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub or shower; consider putting grab bars inside the tub and next to the toilet.

#### **BEDROOMS**

Put in a night-light so you can see where you are walking; some night-lights go on by themselves after dark.

#### Other Things You Can Do to Prevent Falls

Have your doctor or pharmacist look at all the medicines you take, even over-the-counter medicines; some medicines can make you sleepy or dizzy.

Have your vision checked at least once a year by an eye doctor; poor vision can increase your risk of falling.

Think about wearing an alarm device that will bring help in case you fall and cannot get up.

### **Preparing for an Emergency**

All states have disasters. It is smart to prepare for the unexpected. Before a disaster, learn how you will know there is an impending hazardous event. Familiarize yourself with the signs of events that come without warning and know the local advance alerts and warnings and how you will receive them. Knowing about the local emergency plans for shelter and evacuation and local emergency contacts will help you develop your household plan and will also aid you during a crisis.

#### 1 Make your Emergency Kit

You can start with the basics and add on over time.

#### 2 Make a Family Communications Plan

If you are separated and cannot get in touch with your family, each family member should call the same contact out-of-state. Have an emergency contact in your local area, a contact out-of-state, and a neighborhood meeting place.

#### 3 Make a Family Evacuation Plan

In an emergency, you may need to leave your home quickly. Make sure everyone knows the plan. Include a plan for pets in case you need to evacuate.

#### 4 Make a Plan for People with In-Home Needs Consider Help neighbors who may have special needs. Identify a neighbor or family member who can help if a care provider cannot get to your family member with special needs.

### Home Emergency Kit

In an emergency, having these few items in your home can help keep your family safe:

- Water at least 1 gallon per person per day
- Wired telephone
- · Can opener (non-electric)
- First aid kit
- Battery powered radio
- Flashlight and battery-powered lantern
- ABC type fire extinguisher
- · Three-day supply of canned or dried foods
- · Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Three-day supply of baby food and formula
- Prescription medication
- Hand cleaner/sanitizer

If you lose power, eat the food in your refrigerator first. Without power, a refrigerator should keep food at a safe temperature for about four hours.

### Grab Bag

You may have to leave your home quickly in an emergency. Some important items are:

- · One day's clothing and shoes for each family member
- Towels, blankets or sleeping bags
- Personal care products (diapers, feminine hygiene products)
- · Flashlight and extra batteries
- · Prescription medications and CPAP
- Granola bars/trail mix
- Extra set of car keys
- · Cash and prepaid phone card
- Copies of important documents: medical and prescription information, passports, birth certificates, driver's license, insurance papers, contact list of family and friends

### In the Event of Inclement Weather/Natural Disaster

#### Please consider the following.

- Flooding
  - Move equipment to a higher level.
  - Consider alternate arrangements for shelter. If possible, attempt to take oxygen equipment with you.
  - Evacuation/Emergency escape routes.
  - · List of contact information family, friends, doctor, etc.
  - Determine needs for emergency supplies water, food and medical supplies.
  - Review your community's emergency plan.
  - Make sure to have a sufficient amount of backup tanks for your oxygen.
  - Listen to the radio have a radio with batteries or hand crank in case of electrical failure.
- Tornados/Severe Thunderstorms
  - Listen to the radio have a radio with batteries or hand crank in case of electrical failure.
  - Move to a lower level underground is best or use a small interior room without windows or a hallway.
  - Protect your head and crouch down if possible.
  - Make sure to have a sufficient amount of backup tanks for your oxygen.

# **Oxygen Prescription Upon Set Up**

- Consider alternate arrangements for shelter. If possible, attempt to take oxygen equipment with you.
- Severe Winter Storms
  - Listen to the radio have a radio with batteries or hand crank in case of electrical failure.
  - Gather food, water, blankets, medically required items and medication.
  - Make sure to have a sufficient amount of backup tanks for your oxygen.
  - Consider alternate arrangements for shelter. If possible, attempt to take oxygen equipment with you.
- Alternate Arrangements
  - Have appropriate quantity of oxygen tanks on hand for backup.
  - · Consider a backup generator for power failures.
  - Make arrangements for an alternate location where you could stay in case of a natural disaster (for example, family, friends or hotel). If possible, attempt to take oxygen equipment with you.

Attention Oxygen Concentrator Users – Please contact your utility company to be added as a priority user due to medical conditions.

| Continuous Flow               |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
|                               |  |  |
|                               | st LPM w/Activity LPM w/Nocturnal                  |  |
| Pulse Flow                    |  |  |
| LPM @ Re                      | st LPM w/Activity                                  |  |
| Back-up Tanks                 |  |  |
| Recommended back-             | up tanks to have on hand                           |  |
| Set up completed by:          |  |  |
| Oxygen delivery<br>route day: | 🗆 Monday 🗆 Tuesday 🗆 Wednesday 🗆 Thursday 🗆 Friday | Call at least 2 business days prior to route day to order tanks. |
| Recommended                   | Cannula: every 2 weeks.                            |  |
| Maintenance/                  | Extension tubing: every 6 months.                  |  |
| Replacement Schedule          | Clean air intake at least once a week.             |  |

# Home Oxygen Service Locations

Home oxygen services are available from the Mayo Clinic Store in selected areas. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your oxygen provider.

| IN MOWER AND<br>FREEBORN COUNTIES     | IN LA CROSSE<br>AND SURROUNDING<br>WI/MN AREA | IN MANKATO AND<br>SURROUNDING AREA               | IN EAU CLAIRE AND<br>SURROUNDING AREA            |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Mayo Clinic Store<br>Austin           | Mayo Clinic Store<br>La Crosse                | Mayo Clinic Store<br>Mankato                     | Mayo Clinic Store<br>Eau Claire                  |
| 1000 First Drive NW<br>Austin, MN     | 700 West Avenue South<br>La Crosse, WI        | 1400 Madison Avenue<br>Suite 100A<br>Mankato, MN | 1707 Westgate Road<br>Suite #2<br>Eau Claire, WI |
| Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.<br>Monday–Friday | Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.<br>Monday–Friday         | Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.<br>Monday–Friday            | Hours 8 a.m.–5 p.m.<br>Monday–Friday             |
| 507-434-1266                          | 608-392-9797                                  | 507-594-2689                                     | 715-838-1815                                     |

Contact your local Mayo Clinic Store during normal business hours for supplies and delivery questions.

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