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Respiratory Therapy & Medical Equipment Services

*HCS... The Leading Company in the Merrimack Valley,
North Shore and Southern New Hampshire*

**24 Hour
Emergency
Number:
1-978-373-7771
1-800-698-8113**

Patient Instructions **Disinfecting Oxygen Supplies**

DISINFECTANT SOLUTION IS A VINEGAR/WATER SOLUTION. TO MAKE, MIX ONE PART WHITE VINEGAR WITH ONE PART WATER. KEEP VINEGAR/WATER SOLUTION IN A TIGHTLY COVERED FOOD GRADE CONTAINER AND CHANGE WEEKLY.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE OXYGEN DELIVERY SUPPLIES:

- A. Change the cannula.
- B. Dispose of the old cannula.

Every Other Day:

- A. Disassemble the humidifier jar, if used.
- B. Rinse the parts in mild detergent.
- C. Rinse well and shake off the excess moisture.
- D. Submerge the equipment in the vinegar/water disinfectant solution for 20 minutes.
- E. Rinse thoroughly with tap water.
- F. Air-dry the equipment on a clean towel.

Monthly:

- A. Change the supply tubing (25 or 50 foot tube from the equipment to the cannula).

1. **WHAT IS OXYGEN?** Oxygen is colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is the single most important element necessary to support your vital functions. It is obtained through your lungs and carries to all your tissues by your blood. The air we breathe contains about 21% oxygen. In impaired lungs, you may need an additional source of oxygen to maintain adequate blood oxygen levels to supply tissue needs.
2. **CAN I INCREASE MY OXYGEN FLOW IF I FEEL CHEST PAIN OR MORE SHORTNESS OF BREATH? NO!** That could be harmful. Your doctor prescribes oxygen. If you have problems, first call your doctor. You may need additional tests to check your blood oxygen level.
3. **WILL I BE ABLE TO LEAVE MY HOME WHILE ON OXYGEN? YES!** There are small portable oxygen units that will allow you to participate in activities outside the home. Even supplies for trips out of town can be arranged if you discuss it with your doctor and your oxygen supplier.
4. **WHO IS GOING TO DELIVER OXYGEN TO MY HOME?** Our delivery personnel will deliver a portable tank to the hospital (if needed) prior to your discharge, or once you have been discharged home, they will contact you for delivery. A Respiratory Therapist will visit you within one week after set-up.
5. **WILL MY INSURANCE COVER THE COST OF THE OXYGEN?** Most health insurance companies will reimburse for oxygen and oxygen equipment. Medicare Part B will 80% of the cost, and a majority of the secondary insurance companies will cover the remaining 20%. Call your oxygen company if you have any questions. We will submit your claims directly to your insurance company.
6. **IS OXYGEN ADDICTIVE? NO!** Oxygen is necessity for your body's everyday living. By using supplemental oxygen, you are maintaining an adequate supply to your tissues and organs.