

Oxygen Beyond the Prescription

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An oxygen order goes in DME company

- You have done a titration
- You have used the right language in your note
- You have counseled your patient about oxygen
- You have instructed them to use their oxygen
- You have checked the box for a conserving device



DME providers are not equal!

- At baseline, none of them are great
- If a patient lives in more than one place, sometimes a national company is better
- Local sometimes has better customer service. Limited options most of the time



DME Companies

National- Lincare and Apria

Regional - Reliable, Regional, Home Care Specialist, Adapt Health, PromptCare, Enos, Community Health



Delivery from the DME company

Patient was ordered for 2 LPM with activity. Evaluate for conserving device.

Driver delivered

Stationary concentrator with 50 ft tubing

Two tanks (E tanks) and a roller cart

Two cannulas

Instructional packet



Highlights of delivery

- Patient isn't getting new equipment, it is refurbished. They are entitled to "new" equipment every 5 years when contract is renewed.
- Even if you check the box for a conserving device, it is supposed to be done within 2 weeks but sometimes doesn't get done till we follow up or the patient has harassed them to bring out. Should be evaluated by RT with device.



Highlights of delivery

- DME provider gets to pick portable oxygen: tanks, POC, conserving regulator.
- Need additional orders for Oxymizer and humidification for oxygen.



Highlights of DME providers

- Patients must request supplies like cannulas, tubing, etc.
- Typically, delivery is once a week. Although given a window most of the time not delivered during the window or even on the correct day.



Highlights of DME providers

- If you have a home fill system, you are allowed 2 tanks of the size of your choice. If you would like a 3rd or need a 3rd, the average is \$50 a month for that tank.
- Some companies restrict how many tanks they will drop off during the month. Reliable is 10 tanks a month!!!



What stops patients from using oxygen?

- Concern about tripping over the tubing.
- Unsure of how to change the regulator. Fear of it exploding.
- Unable to get ahold of the DME provider when needing supplies.



What stops patients from using oxygen?

- Unclear about what using with activity means
 - Will use when sitting down but need it when up moving.
- Concern about how it would interfere with / limit ability to be active.



POC information

Most patients want a POC but very few will get them from a DME company.

Most get frustrated and buy their own.

Travel is considered to be a luxury, not a right.



New POCs to the market

Inogen ROVE 6

Base: \$3595

Standard battery and

Standard warranty

Max flow 1260



New POCs to the market

O2 Concepts

Liberty2

Base: \$2995

Up to 2 LPM

Pulsed dose 1-10

Max flow 1660



New POCs to the market

Belluscara

X-plore

Base: \$1999

Pulsed 1-4

Max 800 ml



POC limitations

Highest LPM is 3 LPM!

These devices are 15-20

Examples are

CAIRE SeQual Eclipse

O2 Concepts Ox Life



Best oxygen for people needing ≥ 4 ?

Anyone who is using over 3 LPM, the best option is Liquid Oxygen!

Very hard to get in the New England area.

If can't get Liquid the only option is tanks ...



SOAR

Back in Feb/March, the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act of 2024 was brought to the table.

This bill would help the 1.5+million people on oxygen.

It looks at payment reform for Liquid oxygen, supplemental oxygen and access to respiratory therapy.

