

**Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care & Retirement Residence**

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

CATEGORY: Resident Care	SUBJECT: Oxygen Use – Low Flow	SECTION: 0 POLICY: 2
DATE: September 2004	Administrator's Signature: _____	

OXYGEN USE – LOW FLOW

POLICY:

To provide low flow oxygen for the resident via a concentrator or liquid Oxygen, as directed by the Physician to maintain comfort and prevent oxygen deficiency (Hypoxemia) due to chronic respiratory failure.

PROCEDURE:

- The need for oxygen is assessed by the Registered Staff and brought to the attention of the DOC or designate who then advocates to the Physician for oxygen therapy to be ordered. The Physician's orders will include flow rate and hours of usage per day.
- The company contracted to provide the oxygen services to the Home will be contacted by the Registered Staff. The company will provide a concentrator, portable tank, tubing and water if needed. The company will maintain and provide 24-hour emergency service. The liquid oxygen tanks will be filled on a weekly basis, or more frequently if required, by the company. No oil or grease shall be used on the equipment. All maintenance of equipment is provided by the company.
- The Registered Staff will ensure that:
 - The concentrator and/or portable are functioning and delivering the oxygen appropriately.
 - The oxygen delivery rate is as ordered by the Physician.
 - Safety precautions are appropriate as follows:
 - No flammable liquids or lotions
 - No sources of open flame
 - No electrical heaters
 - Adequate precautionary signage
 - No petroleum-based products.
- All portable tanks will be filled twice daily or as required by the Registered Staff and documented each shift in the TARS.
- If a single room is not available, the roommate shall be consulted regarding the restrictions necessitated by the use of oxygen. The resident and roommate, if possible, are informed of all aspects of oxygen therapy and are familiarized with all equipment.

- Signs bearing 'Oxygen in use – NO SMOKING' shall be posted in the room and on the door of the room.
- All Registered Staff are to be trained in the use of oxygen equipment and precautions necessary.
- Nares are assessed to ensure patency and nasal or oral care is given as required. If the resident's nose is bleeding often, water will be applied to the concentrator to add moisture.
- Under no circumstances is oxygen in a pressure vessel to be used or stored in the Home.
- The company providing the oxygen services will provide any necessary paperwork for completion by the Physician.
- The oxygen concentrator tanks will be stored in the treatment room on each floor. A list of those residents currently using oxygen therapy will be posted on the treatment room door for reference in the event of a fire in the facility.