

19 Questions Respiratory Therapists
Want You To Ask Your Physician About...

Your Home Oxygen



1. Why are you prescribing home oxygen for me?
2. What type of oxygen equipment are you prescribing, and why did you select this type of equipment for me?
3. Who will provide this equipment to me, and how will I get it?
4. How can I be assured that I have the right device for oxygen delivery?
5. Is my home oxygen equipment portable enough for me to easily do things outside of my home, or will I be home bound?
6. Do I need to wear my oxygen all of the time or just some of the time? When should I wear it?
7. Who will teach me how to use my home oxygen correctly? Will a respiratory therapist train me?
8. How often do I need to change my nasal cannula?



This guide is provided by the American Association for Respiratory Care
More guides are available at yourlunghealth.org/ask/

9. What do I need to do to ensure that my home is a safe place for the use of home oxygen?
10. Can I still do everyday activities like cooking and showering while wearing my home oxygen?
11. Will I be able to change how much oxygen is flowing out of the tank or concentrator? If so, when should I make changes?
12. I have seen people on oxygen who use finger monitors. Should I have one too?
13. How can I tell if my oxygen is running out? If it is, what should I do?
14. Is it possible to travel while using oxygen?
15. What special plans must I make to travel with my home oxygen, and who can help me make those plans?
16. How will I know if my home oxygen equipment is operating properly, and whom do I call if it is not?
17. What should I do if the electricity goes out and my home oxygen equipment quits working?
18. Will I become addicted to oxygen?
19. Will I have to wear oxygen for the rest of my life?



Prepared with input from: AARC members Kimberly Wiles, BS, RRT, CPFT, vice president of respiratory services, Klingensmith HealthCare, Kittanning, PA; and Robert McCoy, BS, RRT, FAARC, owner and managing director, Valley Inspired Products, Inc., Apple Valley, MN.