

# **Oxygen Equipment Usage**

## **Basic Information**

- ! Concentrator= bottom machine that collects and cleans air into tubing for breathing
- ! Homefill= top unit that fills up portable tanks. This sits on top of the concentrator.
- ! M6/M9 Tanks= small portable tanks used for oxygen usage outside of home.
- ! Etank= tall/skinny tanks used for emergencies only (power out/concentrator not working)
- ! Regulator= green gauge that comes on oxygen tanks.
- ! HEPA filter= box shaped plastic filter inside of the oxygen concentrator
- ! The concentrator collects surrounding air and filters it through the machine to create pure oxygen for breathing.
- ! Concentrators should be placed in either a centralized location or where most of the time would be spent while using it.
  - ! Location can be changed after initial installation if necessary.
- ! Concentrators can remain plugged in even while not in use.
  - ! If possible, the concentrator should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.
  - ! Surge protectors are ok, if necessary, but do not use a simple extension cord
    - Sometimes there is not enough energy from an extension cord to allow the machine to fully function.
- ! Concentrators should be no closer to any wall/furniture than 6".
  - ! This allows for enough space for air to properly flow into the concentrator and also prevent the concentrator from overheating while being used.

## **Connecting Oxygen Tubing**

- ! Green oxygen tubing allows for extended space from the concentrator.
  - ! These come in lengths of either 25ft or 40ft.
  - ! One end hooks up directly to the concentrator where the oxygen comes out and the other end hooks up to a plastic connector.
  - ! Both ends of green tubing are same, which end you hook up where doesn't matter.
  - ! These should be switched out and replaced every 6-8 weeks.
- ! White/blue plastic connectors are used to connect the oxygen tubing to the cannulas.

- ! Both ends of the plastic connectors are the same, which end you hook up where doesn't matter.
- ! Cannulas are the clear tubing that goes directly to the patient's nose.
  - ! Cannulas rest in the front of the neck area, then wrap around the back of the ears, then come back up to the patient's nose.
    - This should be snug, but not too tight.
  - ! These come in lengths of either 4ft or 7ft.
  - ! These should be switched out and replaced every 2-3 weeks.

### **Non-Essential Oxygen Tubing Extras**

- ! If a patient feels it is necessary, they may use a humidifier bottle with their oxygen equipment.
  - Typically, patients only use this if they routinely have a dry/bloody nose.
  - Patients will use the short clear tubing and attach it to both the concentrator and the humidifier bottle.
    - ! One end has a spiral end that screws into the lid of the humidifier bottle, the other end hooks directly up to the concentrator.
    - ! The rest of the standard oxygen tubing hooks to the other end of lid
  - Humidifier bottles should only be filled up halfway at most.
    - ! Distilled water is the ONLY water that should be used.
      - If not used correctly, both of these could make it much easier for water to get into the tubing.
    - ! If a patient has issues with water getting into their tubing, they may use a water trap with their oxygen tubing.
  - Water trap is a clear plastic tube with caps on both ends of it.
    - ! This will be used in between green tubing and cannulas instead of the plastic connectors.

### **Homefill Usage**

- ! Homefills are a separate unit that is used in addition to the concentrator to refill small portable tanks. They can only refill M6/M9 tanks. This cannot refill etanks.
  - This should be placed on the rack that sits on top of the concentrator.

- ! Homefill connects to the concentrator through the clear coil tubing.
  - This will snap into the metal ports at the bottom of the homefill and concentrator.
- ! Homefill unit only needs to be on while patient is refilling a portable tank.
  - If refilling a tank, BOTH the homefill and the concentrator need to be on.
- ! Homefill pulls air from the concentrator up to the top to refill tanks.
- ! Homefill requires 2LPM of air to fill tanks.
  - The most accurate LPM the concentrator is exerting is when all tubing is disconnected from the concentrator.
    - A 5LPM concentrator should be set no higher than 3LPM on dial.
    - A 10LPM concentrator should be set no higher than 8LPM on dial.
- ! Homefill will always say “below normal when initially turned on”.
  - After several minutes, the homefill will then say “filling”.
- ! After the tank is done filling, the homefill will say ‘full’.
  - Once a tank is full, it doesn’t need to be taken off immediately. It will stop filling.
- ! Duration it takes to fill tanks varies on how empty the tank is.
- ! M6 tank= smallest one. M9 tank= medium size tank.