

Oxygen Information for Home

Overview: Your infant is discharging home with oxygen because (s)he needs it to maintain their saturations. For this reason, don't remove the oxygen for any reason until you are told to do so at your follow-up appointment.

Oxygen:

- The oxygen tubing you will use at home is the same as what you've been using here.
- The home equipment company will provide all the necessary supplies once you are home. Ask your nurse for a few extras just to get you through.
- Your baby's nurse will walk through removal, changing and re-taping the cannula with you. This includes how to protect the skin when removing, how often the cannula should be changed (1x/week and when soiled), and how-to re-tape. Anybody who wants to try this before going home can do so.
- Any hissing coming from the tank is not normal. If you are concerned something might be wrong and you can't trouble shoot call the number provided to you with your equipment.
- No humidity is needed for less than 1/4 Liter
- How long will the tank last? It depends on the size of the tank, but most will last at least 24 hours with this low flow oxygen.
- Traveling with Oxygen: place the oxygen tank on the floor or under the seat when in the car. If traveling long distances call your oxygen provider for assistance.

Pulse Oximeter:

- This should always be used until told otherwise.
- It does not keep memory so if you hear an alarm make sure to document any drops in heart rate or oxygen to be able to tell your infant's doctor. Call your doctor with any concerns and 911 with any emergencies.
- In most cases you can anticipate:
 - At least a 30-minute observation on the pulse ox while at your follow-up appointment. This, in conjunction with weight gain, feeding habits, growth, etc. will be used by the primary care physician or pulmonologist for weaning.
 - The weaning usually is done in steps. They may wean off the pulse oximeter first, or they may recommend only wearing the oxygen when sleeping. You can expect more than one appointment before weaning all the way off the equipment.

Other Considerations:

- No smoking in the house or near the oxygen equipment.
- Consider posting a sign on your front door that oxygen is present in the home.
- An infant on oxygen is still extremely fragile.
 - Avoid areas where they will be exposed to a lot of people or germs.
 - Be cautious of the people watching or interacting with your infant (Are they up to date on their immunizations, are they CPR certified, etc.)