

## OXYGEN EQUIPMENT

There are various types of oxygen systems. Some oxygen equipment will provide for 24 hour per day therapy, others for short term therapy only. The Respiratory Therapist will work with you and your physician(s) to provide a system that will optimize your best oxygen level at rest, while sleeping and on exertion.

If you experience difficulties with your equipment and/or delivery schedule, contact your oxygen supply company as soon as possible. They will be able to help you with any difficulties related to the equipment or delivery schedules.



### Oxygen Supply Companies:

**MEDIGAS (604) 527-0744**  
**WESTCARE (604) 540-8288**  
**VITALAIRE (604) 881-0214**

## SMOKING AND OXYGEN

Smoking is a very serious health concern both from the effects on the human body and the hazards it will present when near oxygen. It is **extremely important** that all people requiring oxygen therapy are familiar with the hazards of smoking near oxygen. Your oxygen equipment provider will review the safety of oxygen use with you and answer any questions you may have.

Smoking near oxygen therapy is a very real hazard and must not occur. If you continue to smoke around the oxygen **you WILL loose your subsidy for home oxygen therapy.**

### CONTACTING FH HOP

The Fraser Health Home Oxygen Program operates Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

We are located at:  
**22051 FRASER HIGHWAY**  
**LANGLEY, BC V3H 4H4**  
**Telephone: (604) 514-6106**  
**Facsimile: (604) 514-6079**

December, 2003  
Reference: VCHA HOP



## THE HOME OXYGEN PROGRAM

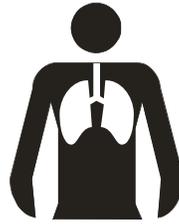


## INTRODUCTION

Fraser Health (FH) provides administrative direction for the **Home Oxygen Program (HOP)** based at Langley Memorial Hospital. The FH HOP serves all Fraser Valley regions extending from Burnaby to Boston Bar inclusive. Medical Direction is provided to the HOP by a physician specializing in lung disorders (Respirologist). Clinical assessments are provided by Registered Respiratory Therapists.

## HOW DOES HOP WORK?

In the Medical Profession oxygen is considered a drug and must be prescribed by a physician. Your attending physician will complete a prescription/application and submit this to HOP. On the application will be clinical information with regard to the amount of oxygen in your blood, which was measured by a blood test or by a machine with a finger sensor called an oximeter. The Medical Director of the HOP will review your application to determine if your blood oxygen level is low enough to meet the qualifying guidelines for funding through the Home Oxygen Program.



## WHY IS OXYGEN THERAPY REQUIRED?

Oxygen therapy is required when the lungs, on their own, are not able to provide enough oxygen to the blood for the body to use. Respiratory difficulties such as Emphysema, Chronic Bronchitis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Lung Cancer, Pulmonary Fibrosis and Pneumonia are some of the diseases why oxygen therapy may be required.

Oxygen may be required by babies, children and adults. Some people will require oxygen therapy for only a short period of time. Others will require oxygen therapy for longer periods of time and others will be using oxygen therapy the remainder of their lives.

## HOW LONG WILL I NEED OXYGEN

About 4-6 weeks after oxygen is started a HOP Respiratory Therapist will come to your home to measure your oxygen again with the oximeter and finger sensor.

This assessment report is then reviewed by the Medical Director to determine if home oxygen therapy is still required.

If the oxygen level remains low, the Fraser Health Home Oxygen Program will continue to subsidize the oxygen therapy. Home assessments will continue to be provided by the HOP Respiratory Therapists on an on-going basis. Copies of all assessments will be forwarded to your attending physician(s).

If your oxygen level has improved and exceeds the guidelines for continued funding, the home oxygen subsidy will be discontinued.

## TRAVEL WITH OXYGEN

If you plan to travel you should discuss your plans with your physician. You may require some changes to your oxygen prescription depending on where and how you are travelling. You should also contact your oxygen supply company. Fraser Health HOP will fund your oxygen up to 6 months within the province and up to 3 months within Canada, per year. If you travel outside Canada you are responsible for payment of your oxygen at your destination.