

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need portable medical oxygen?

How do portable medical oxygen systems differ from my stationary medical oxygen systems?

Is the pulse dose technology suitable for me?

Why is a portable medical oxygen concentrator trial important?

Can I use portable medical oxygen concentrators during sleep?

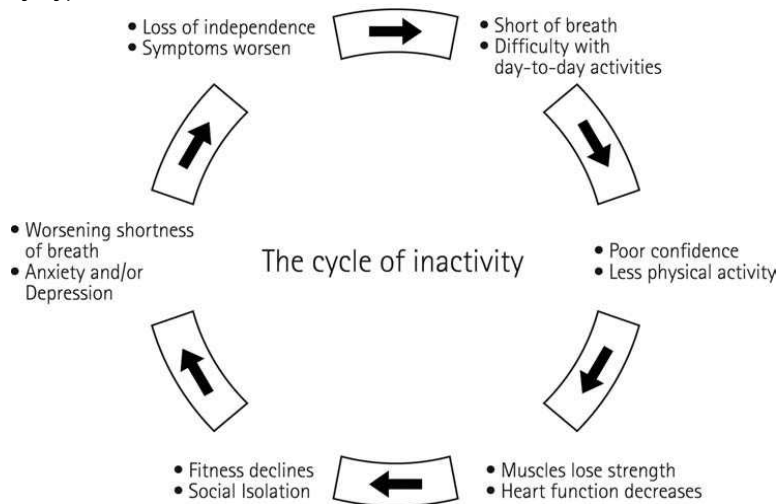
Do I need a medical prescription to receive portable medical oxygen systems?

Can I travel with my portable medical oxygen systems?

Why do I need portable medical oxygen?

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) affects 4 to 10% of the world's population. Long Term Oxygen Therapy (LTOT) is the recommended standard of care for COPD sufferers. Two landmark medical studies (MRC and NOTT studies) have shown that continuous oxygen therapy improves:

- Quality of life
- Quantity of life
- Increases ability to exercise
- Improves brain function
- Decreases pulmonary hypertension



To get the full benefit of medical oxygen, and experience the change that exercise can make to your lifestyle, you need portable medical oxygen systems.

How do portable medical oxygen systems differ from my stationary medical oxygen systems?

Medical oxygen cylinders are high pressure vessels made to strict specifications, of aluminium or steel, to store compressed medical oxygen at high pressures. With a standard regulator, a medical oxygen cylinder provides a continuous flow of oxygen.

Medical oxygen concentrators are electrically driven machines that deliver a continuous flow of oxygen by drawing in room air through a series of filters to remove dust, bacteria and other particles. The filtered air then goes through two sieve beds where nitrogen and water vapour are removed, and is then compressed to a high concentration.

Portable medical oxygen equipment, on the other hand, uses a pulse dose technology, which delivers oxygen only at the inspiratory stage of your breathing cycle.

In a portable medical oxygen cylinder system, an Oxygen Conserving Device (OCD) is used instead of a standard regulator. The OCD is a regulator that delivers oxygen using the pulse dose technology, thus conserving oxygen in the medical oxygen cylinder.

In a portable medical oxygen concentrator, the delivery of oxygen is triggered based on the same technology, thus allowing the use of smaller sieve beds in the medical oxygen concentrator.

The result is a smaller, lighter, and more compact medical oxygen system that can increase mobility.

Is the pulse dose technology suitable for me?

Only you and your doctor can determine if the pulse dose technology is suitable for you. At AIR LIQUIDE *Healthcare*, we provide a 3-day trial program of our portable medical oxygen concentrators.

Why is a portable medical oxygen concentrator trial important?

From a clinical point of view, you need to verify that the pulse dose technology is suitable for you and provides you with the adequate level of oxygen. We strongly recommend you to bring your portable medical oxygen equipment to your doctor during the trial in order to verify your suitability for this technology. The verification can be achieved by conducting oximetry tests when you are at rest and exercising at your doctor's clinic.

From a user's point of view, you need to ensure that the chosen portable medical oxygen concentrator suits your lifestyle in terms of equipment size, weight, battery duration, portability and transportability.

Can I use portable medical oxygen concentrators during sleep?

No. We do not recommend the use of portable medical oxygen concentrators during sleep, because shallow breathing or mouth breathing will not trigger the pulse dose mechanism of the concentrator. Should you wish to use the equipment overnight, please speak to your doctor about having an overnight oximetry test. Please note that AIR LIQUIDE *Healthcare* is not responsible if the equipment is not clinically suitable for you.

Do I need a medical prescription to receive portable medical oxygen systems?

Yes. Medical oxygen is a medicine so a medical prescription is mandatory for us to supply you with any medical oxygen equipment.

If you want to start a portable medical oxygen concentrator trial program:

We require a general medical oxygen prescription (no more than 12 months old) stating the required flow settings and usage hours.

If you want to rent or purchase a portable medical oxygen concentrator:

We strongly recommend that you trial the equipment and verify its suitability with your physician.

The prescription should state that you are suitable for pulse dose technology and preferably, the prescription should provide the following information:

1. Flow rate setting specific for pulse dose technology at rest
2. Flow rate setting specific for pulse dose technology on exertion
3. Flow rate setting specific for pulse dose technology nocturnally (at sleep) – if applicable

Can I travel with my portable medical oxygen systems?

Yes. Most airlines, cruisers and buses approve the use of portable medical oxygen cylinders and concentrators supplied by AIR LIQUIDE *Healthcare*. Please speak to your travel agents or your airlines for their specific requirements.

Please also contact our customer service staff for safety information regarding travelling with medical oxygen.

Approved airlines for *AIRSEP FreeStyle™* Portable Medical Oxygen Concentrators

Approved airlines for *PHILIPS RESPIRONICS EverGo™* Portable Medical Oxygen Concentrators