

Oxygen Order and Documentation Requirements

Medicare, along with other insurance providers, requires that a physician, NP, CNS or PA has had a Face-to-Face (F2F) examination with the patient that documents that the patient was evaluated and/or treated for a condition that supports the need for the prescribed equipment. The date of the F2F exam may be no older than 30 days prior to the order date.

A Five-Element Order (5EO) is also required; this cannot be completed until after the F2F exam, and must be received by the supplier prior to dispensing the equipment. This order must contain:

- Patient's name
- Date of the order
- Description of each item to be dispensed
- Ordering Practitioner's National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- Signature of ordering practitioner and signature date. Signature and date stamps are not allowed. Signatures must be legible and/or physician's name must also be printed

Patient Medical Records must contain documentation of the following:

1. The **Face-to-Face (F2F) examination**. This can be an inpatient admit H&P, discharge, progress note, or outpatient note.
2. **Diagnosis:** Medicare covers home oxygen for patients with:
 - **A severe lung disease.** Examples include COPD, diffuse interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, and widespread pulmonary neoplasm; or
 - **Hypoxia-related symptoms or findings.** Examples include pulmonary hypertension, recurring CHF due to cor pulmonale, erythrocytosis, impairment of cognitive process, nocturnal restlessness, or morning headache.
3. **Documentation that alternative treatment measures have been considered or tried** but deemed ineffective. This could include inhalation medications and nebulizer treatments or inhalers that were prescribed but do not help the patient.
4. **Oxygen saturation testing.** Testing must occur within 2 days prior to discharge from an inpatient facility or 30 days prior to initial date of order for an outpatient. The patient must be in a chronic stable state and not during a period of acute illness or exacerbation of the underlying disease (i.e. not the emergency room).
 - ❖ Please document the date of the test, actual test performed and who completed the testing process.
 - ❖ Oxygen saturations may be tested:
 - **At Rest:** Test oxygen saturations on room air at rest (awake).
If arterial O₂ saturation **88% or lower, or arterial PO₂ of 55 mm Hg or less, no further testing is required.** This will qualify the patient for a concentrator and also portability. *If portability is ordered, there must be documentation in the medical record that the patient is mobile within their home.*
 - **With Activity (if sats above 88% at rest but drop during activity):**
Three tests are performed at the same testing session:
 1. **At rest on room air**, and
 2. **During exercise on room air**, and
 3. **During exercise wearing oxygen** (to show recovery).
 If O₂ saturations taken during exercise on room air are 88% or lower, the patient will qualify for concentrator and portability. *There must be documentation in the medical record that patient is mobile within their home.*
 - **During Sleep** (overnight oximetry):
The patient's saturations must drop below 88% (arterial oxygen saturations) or 55 mm Hg (arterial PO₂) for a combined total of at least 5 minutes of the total testing time to qualify. If the patient qualifies during sleep, they are only eligible for a concentrator.
 - ❖ **If patient requires over 4 LPM, oxygen saturations must be tested while on oxygen at 4 LPM or more, and these results documented in the patient chart.**

Physicians who have patients with Medicare/Medicare replacement insurances are also required to complete a Certificate of Medical Necessity; this will be faxed to the doctor for completion once all qualifying documentation has been received.

Thank you for making Rice Home Medical part of your healthcare team. Please call 320-235-8434 if any questions.