

## Who Pays For My Oxygen?

For people presenting with extended health benefits your health plan provider will be the primary payer and Community Respiratory Services will fund, if approved by the physician leader, any portion not provided by your extended health. People that do not have extended health benefits will have their approved oxygen funded by the Fraser Health Community Respiratory Services program.

Community Respiratory Services does not provide funding for people presenting with Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC), Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) or Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB).

## Travel with oxygen

Contact your oxygen supplier for questions or concerns related to travelling with oxygen. Fraser Health Community Respiratory Services will fund your oxygen therapy, at the approved Fraser Health rate, for up to 90 days within Canada, per year.

**CRS does not fund your oxygen therapy outside of Canada.**

*Contact your oxygen supplier to make arrangements for travel outside of the country.*



## Pets

Pets are valued family members, however, from a safety/allergy perspective, the program requests that ANY pets be contained while our therapists are completing assessments within your home.



### Fraser Health Community Respiratory Services

#205 9440 202 Street  
Langley, BC V1M 4A6

**Phone: 604-514-6106**

Toll Free: 1-888-514-6106

Fax: 604-514-6079

#### Hours of operation:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

[www.fraserhealth.ca/your\\_care/  
home\\_oxygen\\_program](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/your_care/home_oxygen_program)

[www.fraserhealth.ca/your\\_care/  
community\\_respiratory\\_services](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/your_care/community_respiratory_services)

## Home Oxygen Therapy

*What You Should Know*



**Community Respiratory  
Services**

PRINTSHOP # 251607 JAN2011

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## How does Community Respiratory Services Work?

Community Respiratory Services, a community-based Fraser Health program, provides in-home oxygen therapy funding, respiratory therapy services, respiratory education and support services.

In the medical profession, oxygen is considered a drug and must be prescribed by a physician. Your primary care physician will complete an application with an oxygen prescription and submit this to the program.

Community Respiratory Services has medical direction provided by a physician leader who specializes in lung disorders (Respirologist). The physician leader is responsible for considering the submitted home oxygen program applications to determine if you qualify for home oxygen funding. Your present blood oxygen levels are compared to qualifying standards, which is the main factor in the physician leader's decision to approve or reject the funding application for home oxygen.

When your home oxygen therapy funding is approved, a Registered Respiratory Therapist from the program will come to your home to complete a respiratory assessment, measure your blood oxygen values by either a finger clip and/or by a blood sample and also provide education services. Copies of the therapist assessments are forwarded to your primary care physician and your attending specialist.

## 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.

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

## How long will I need oxygen?

Community Respiratory Services will contact you to arrange an in-home oxygen assessment by a Respiratory Therapist. If the results of the therapist's assessment indicate your oxygen level remains low the therapist will advise you to continue using the oxygen therapy and the program will maintain your oxygen funding. As you continue to use oxygen therapy, the program therapists will provide on-going assessments.

If your oxygen level has improved and exceeds the qualifying standards, the therapist will review the assessment results with the physician leader and your home oxygen subsidy will be discontinued. The therapist will contact you to inform you the home oxygen subsidy is discontinued. Written notification will also be forwarded to you and your physician(s).

## Oxygen Equipment

There are various types of oxygen systems. Some oxygen equipment will provide for 24 hours 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 with activity.

If you experience difficulties with your equipment and/or delivery schedule, contact your oxygen supply company as soon as possible.

## WARNING! Smoking and Oxygen

Smoking is a very serious health concern both from its effects on the human body and the hazards it will present when 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, **your home oxygen equipment may be discontinued.**

*The program requests that you or family members refrain from smoking for one-half to one hour prior to the therapist's arrival and for the entire duration of the visit.*



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