

If you move, please contact the HOP as soon as possible. This is important so you can continue to be served by the program. Your oxygen subsidy will continue if you move within BC.

What about smoking?



Smoking is a real health concern; not only with what it does to your body, but also what it can do if you smoke near oxygen. Anything can

burn, even you and your home, when you mix smoking with oxygen.

It is **extremely important** that you are aware of the dangers caused by smoking while near oxygen. Your oxygen supplier will go over this with you. You will be reminded at each visit. Smoking while using oxygen is a risk not only to your life but also to the lives of others around you.

The danger is very real. If you continue to smoke while using oxygen, or you do not use it safely, you will lose your subsidy right away and **your equipment will be removed.**

It is never too late to quit smoking. Ask us about a stop smoking program in your area.

How long will my oxygen subsidy last?

Your HOP therapist will check your oxygen levels often. Your doctors will get the results and if any changes to prescription or equipment are needed. You will also be told about any changes that are needed.

In order to remain as a HOP client you need to have regular assessments. You also need to use the equipment safely, take care of it and use oxygen as prescribed.

If you do not use the equipment given to you or you do not want it, please call the HOP so we can help.

Who do I call if I have a question?

For questions about your equipment or deliveries, please call your oxygen company.

If you have other questions or would like to talk about your subsidy or your oxygen company please call us.

How do I contact the HOP?

Tel: 604-301-3814
Fax: 604-301-3829

Our hours are:
Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm,
but not holidays.

A Guide for the Person on Home Oxygen

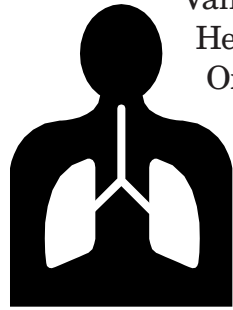


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The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.
www.vch.ca

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Vancouver BC V6P 1S1
Tel: 604-301-3814

Introduction



Vancouver Coastal Health runs the Home Oxygen Program (HOP) for people living in Richmond, Vancouver, the North Shore and up to the Pemberton area, the Sunshine Coast, the Powell River, and the Bella Bella/Bella Coola areas.

HOP helps people with low blood oxygen levels get oxygen in their homes.

What is oxygen therapy?

Oxygen is a clear, odorless gas that you breathe into your lungs. It is used to help people when their blood is not able to get enough oxygen from breathing only air. There are many diseases that can cause this problem: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer, for instance. Oxygen therapy is for adults and sometimes babies and young children need it.

Some people will need oxygen for only weeks or months. Others will need oxygen for many more months or even for the rest of their lives.

How do I get oxygen?

A doctor will apply to the Home Oxygen Program for you. The HOP will review your application to see if you qualify. If so, the Health Authority will pay for your oxygen. If you have extended health benefits, the HOP will pay for the cost that is not covered by your plan. If you do not qualify for the subsidy, you can either pay for the oxygen yourself or choose not to use it.

What happens if I qualify?

A person from one of two oxygen companies will come to your home to set up your equipment and show you how to operate it properly.

Several weeks after being set up, the HOP will make an appointment with you for our therapist to visit you in your home. During the visit, we will talk to you about your oxygen needs, check your blood oxygen levels, help answer questions you may have and talk about the next visit if needed.

We will send the results of the assessments and any tests we do to your doctor(s), your oxygen company, and your community nurse, if you have one.

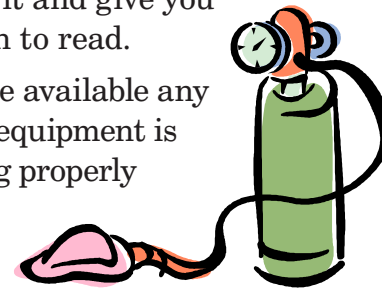
Why do some people have different oxygen equipment than me?

Not everyone has the same needs. Some people need oxygen 24 hours a day, some need it only at night, while others need oxygen only when they walk. Because of these different needs there are many types of equipment available, but no matter what equipment you have, it is important to use oxygen as instructed.

What am I entitled to get from my oxygen company?

The oxygen company will set you up with oxygen equipment, show you how to use it and give you information to read.

They will be available any time if the equipment is not working properly and if you are not sure you remember how to use the equipment. The company will make sure the equipment is always working properly and may need to see it from time to time. You will also be checked to see if you need to have a back up oxygen cylinder in the event of a power failure or if the equipment breaks down.



The company will give you other basic oxygen supplies to use with your equipment.

If you need portable oxygen, you will be provided with a cart or a carry bag and instructions on how to order more if needed.

Please make sure you have enough oxygen to last you until your next delivery day. If you need oxygen before your next delivery date, you may be charged for delivery.

What happens if I travel or move?

Tell your doctor, the HOP and your oxygen supplier well before your travel date so we can all help. Changes to your oxygen prescription may be needed depending on where you go and how you will travel.

HOP funding will continue for up to 3 months in a year if you travel in Canada. HOP will not pay for oxygen more than your subsidy limit or if you leave the country. Your airline has rules on using oxygen during flight so please check with them.