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**1. I am on supplemental oxygen and at times my saturations are okay, but I still get very short of breath. I don't understand why the supplemental oxygen doesn't prevent me from getting short of breath. Isn't that what oxygen is supposed to do?**

- a. Low oxygen levels are caused by the failure of blood vessels in your lungs to connect with the air sacs that contain oxygen. Your lungs may still be able to support that connection, but you may be short of breath due to other factors such as hyperinflation, retained carbon dioxide, a flattened diaphragm, or more that may increase your work of breathing.

**2. Will Medicare pay for a portable oxygen concentrator?**

- a. Yes, if the medical order states that it is your prime source of oxygen for regular use. For example, if you also want to get a stationary oxygen concentrator in addition to your portable model, you would have to pay for the stationary unit out of pocket.



**Oxygen F.A.Q.**

This pamphlet will include some frequently asked questions for those who were prescribed supplemental oxygen.

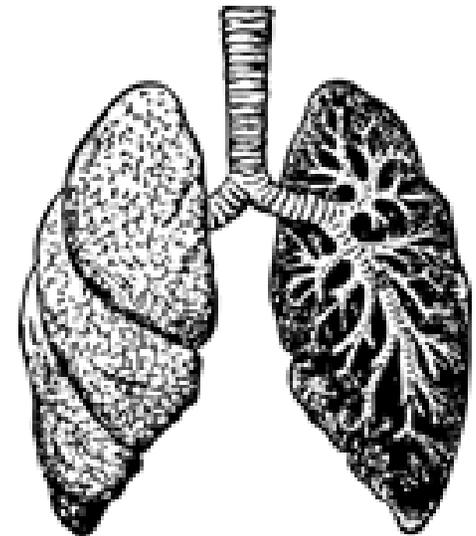
You can find more information at:

[Chestmednm.com](http://Chestmednm.com)

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**O<sub>2</sub> F.A.Q.**

OXYGEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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### **3. How does Medicare work with supplemental oxygen?**

- a. Medicare goes on a 5-year contract with your medical supply company. The first 36 months, the supplier is paid for the rental equipment. The last 24 months of the 5-year contract, the supplier is paid only for necessary accessories, such as hoses and refilled tanks. Medicare pays 80% of the charges, and you are responsible for paying the supplier 20%.

### **4. If I decide to fly, will my oxygen supplier be required to provide me with a portable oxygen concentrator?**

- a. No. Your oxygen supplier is not required to furnish you with an airline-approved portable oxygen concentrator and Medicare will not pay for any oxygen related to air travel. Your oxygen supplier is required to provide you with oxygen at your destination. You might be able to rent a portable oxygen concentrator from your oxygen supplier.

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### **5. Can my oxygen supplier decide to change the terms of my contract regarding my equipment or the number of tanks I get each month?**

- a. NO! They may not change the type of equipment or number of tank refills you receive unless ordered by your doctor and approved by you. The Medicare CMS Supplier Handbook states: "Suppliers must provide whatever quantity of oxygen contents are needed for a beneficiary's activities both inside and outside the home." Once your oxygen supplier starts to bill Medicare, they must fulfill the contract for the entire five years.

### **6. I have been told by my oxygen supplier that they will no longer provide me with my usual number of tank refills, and if I want more than they are willing to give me I must pick them up myself. Is this allowable?**

- a. NO! Your oxygen supplier may not reduce the number of tank refills they have delivered in the past or the type of tanks prescribed for you, and they may not make you pick up your own tanks.

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### **7. Do I still get replacement oxygen equipment accessories such as regulators, filters, masks and tubing after the first 36 months?**

- A. Your oxygen supplier must keep on supplying replacement accessories for the rest of your five-year contract. Your supplier is also required to service and repair your equipment at no charge. During this time, the oxygen supplier will bill Medicare for these supplies and tank refills.

### **8. What happens if the equipment I have is no longer effective for me?**

- A. If your doctors decides that your oxygen equipment can no longer provide what you need, he/she may notify the oxygen supplier with a new letter of medical necessity for different equipment. The oxygen supplier must provide you with new equipment. In this case, your contact period does not change even after the 36 month period.

