



**PRAIRIE NORTH REGIONAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Number: 15010
Category: Continuing Care – LTC
Title: Oxygen Humidification

Approved by: VP Integrated Health Services

Source: Director of Continuing Care
Date Effective: October 22, 2012

Review Date:	4/02/13				
Initial:	AK				

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PURPOSE

Best practice guidelines indicate humidification is only effective for O₂ flow rate greater than or equal to 4 liters/minute. (Nettia, S., 2001). (Public Health Agency of Canada 2010).

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Long Term Care (LTC) residents receiving long term oxygen therapy may choose to have their oxygen humidified to enhance personal comfort. If oxygen is requested to be humidified, it must be done safely (according to best practice and infection control guidelines). (See Appendix A – Client Care Equipment Cleaning Guidelines in Rehabilitation).
2. LTC residents receiving oxygen therapy shall receive, **upon request**, oxygen humidification.
3. LTC residents who interfere with, or are otherwise unable to manage the humidifier bottle may not be good candidates for oxygen humidification.
4. Humidification for O₂ less than 4 litres/minute is considered a personal preference and, therefore should be at the provision/management/expense of the resident, family and/or home O₂ company and **only** using pre-filled bubble containers. (Best practice guideline identified by the Centre for Communicable diseases and Infection Control pg. 52: Public Health Agency of Canada, 2010).

REFERENCES

Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control. 2010. *Infection control guideline for prevention of health care associated pneumonia*. Public Health Agency of Canada.

Nettina, S. (Ed.). *The Lippincott manual of nursing practice* (7th ed). Philadelphia PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.