



**PRAIRIE NORTH REGIONAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Number: 15650
Category: Continuing Care – Home Care
Title: Oxygen Humidification

Approved by: VP Integrated Health Services

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

Review Date:	4/02 2013				
Initial:	JK				

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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. Home Care clients will have assessment and management of humidification needs performed by the Respiratory Therapist employed by the Home Oxygen Company which provides their oxygen equipment. If oxygen is requested to be humidified, it must be done in consultation with their Home Oxygen Company and their Respiratory Therapist and utilization of best practice standards and infection control guidelines.
2. 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.