

Date:	April 2, 2020
To:	Northern Health Staff and Physicians
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine, NH EOC Sponsor Dr. Sharla Rae Olsen, Respiriologist / Internal Medicine Leslie (Richelle) Maser, Chief Respiratory Therapist
CC:	Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director Diagnostic Services Penny Anguish, NI COO; Angela De Smit, NE COO; Ciro Panessa, NW COO; Northern Health Medical Directors; NH EOC
Re:	Home Oxygen Qualifying Criteria during COVID-19 Response

In an effort to protect essential staff and personal and to mitigate a potential shortage of oxygen concentrators during this unprecedented time, the criteria for qualifying patients for Home Oxygen equipment funding across British Columbia has been temporarily adjusted. ALL starts must meet the new criteria as follows:

To qualify for 24-hour oxygen:

- All ABG's must have a PaO₂ 55 mmHg or less; OR,
- Room air saturations must be 86% or less for a full 6 minutes,

PLEASE NOTE:

- There are no longer separate criteria for co-morbid diseases
- There will be no portable only oxygen starts at this time
- There will be no nocturnal only oxygen starts at this time
- Pediatric starts will continue, as ordered by a pediatrician per usual.
- All assessments must be done within 48 hours

Exceptions to the new criteria will occur only on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the HOP office directly to request adjudication of the extenuating circumstances.

In order to protect personnel and minimize person-to-person contact, equipment suppliers will be endeavoring to set up patients with oxygen prior to their arrival home. To this end, discharging facilities are encouraged to provide quick discharge equipment to approved individuals and their families. The HOP office must approve all applications for oxygen before discharge equipment is given to ensure the new criteria are met. Vendors will be screening clients carefully for risk factors related to CoVID-19 and will be conducting as much of their interactions virtually or by phone whenever possible. Be aware that assessments of high-risk patients by the contracted vendor Respiratory Therapist will be delayed until the CoVID-19 danger has passed.

We would like to make it as easy as possible for all involved, including any potential clients we may have.

For questions or assistance contact HOP Office 250-649-4814, or Sherry Ziemer sherry.ziemer@northernhealth.ca. 250-961-9675.