

4.11 Oxygen Management and Administration

Purpose:

The College of Physiotherapists of Manitoba (CPM) requires that all members practice within their individual knowledge, skills, and abilities. Physiotherapists are expected to show judgment in their practice which protects public safety and professional standards.

This Practice Direction provides direction to physiotherapists for the ethical, safe, and competent practice of oxygen management and administration as part of physiotherapy interventions.

Definitions:

Titration: increase or decrease of oxygen flow rate to maintain adequate oxygen saturation.

Policy:

The management or administration of oxygen in physiotherapy practice may include, but is not limited to: assessment of oxygen saturation, initiation of oxygen administration, oxygen titration, adjustment of oxygen flow rates within parameters set by the physician/health facility, and physical handling of oxygen delivery systems.

Based on their professional judgment and the specific physiotherapy intervention, physiotherapists will:

- Familiarize themselves with health facility/health authority policy on oxygen administration.
- Educate the patient regarding the indication and precautions of oxygen administration.
- Ensure and document that the patient and/or their caregivers have the information and skills needed to be active participants in their own care during and/or after therapy, including proper techniques for connecting and disconnecting oxygen delivery systems. Physiotherapists must provide enough information so that the patient and/or their caregivers are prepared and able to respond if issues arise after/outside the treatment setting.
- Titrate oxygen levels to maintain adequate oxygen saturation levels.
- Communicate relevant information to other health care professionals in a clear and timely fashion to ensure safe, quality patient care. As a member of a health care team, physiotherapists are accountable for both their own actions and for making their expectations of other team members' responsibilities and actions clear.

- Assess the competence of Rehabilitation Assistants (RA's) to connect/disconnect oxygen delivery systems to facilitate patient participation in physiotherapy treatment. Once oxygen flow rates have been determined and deemed appropriate, PT's may direct RA's to proceed with using O2 for an exercise or walking program. For further clarity on delegation to Rehabilitation Assistants, refer to CPM Practice Direction 4.8 Physiotherapists Assigning Physiotherapy Care (Working with Rehabilitation Assistants).
- Document physiotherapy assessment, interventions and patient response. For further clarity on documentation expectations, refer to CPM Practice Direction 4.17 Record Keeping.

Competency:

Members are expected to maintain ongoing competence.

The Continuing Competency program may require members to demonstrate evidence of ongoing competency when participating in clinical audits.