

Oxygen Therapy 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.

Physiotherapists are expected to provide ethical, safe, and competent oxygen therapy management and administration as part of physiotherapy interventions. This may include administering oxygen by inhalation or mechanical ventilation.

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,
- 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 and document relevant information to other health care professionals in a clear and timely fashion to ensure safe, quality patient care. For further clarification on documentation and communication expectations, refer to the applicable standards.
- Once oxygen flow rates have been determined and deemed appropriate, Physiotherapists may direct Physiotherapy Support Workers to proceed with using oxygen for an exercise or walking program. For further clarity on delegation to Support Workers, refer to the applicable related standard.

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.

Related Standards

Interprofessional Collaborative Care
Supervision
Documentation
Communication
Continuing Competence