Home Safety Tips For Home Oxygen Use

When taking care of the elderly, it is important to be aware of ***home safety tips for seniors using oxygen***. This includes being prepared for an electrical outage. A patient who uses an oxygen system that runs on electricity MUST have a back-up supply of oxygen. This must be enough to last until power is restored. A better alternative is a back up generator.

**Oxygen Safety Checklist**

# Taking care of the elderly oxygen safety guidelines:

Keep a list of important emergency numbers including: Oxygen supplier

Doctor Hospital

These should be in large print near the phones in the house. Or located in you cell phone

Important to have a back-up oxygen cylinder or a back-up generator. This is in case of loss of electrical power or oxygen concentrator failure

Use oxygen only as directed

**No Smoking** around oxygen. Post “**No Smoking**” signs in the home

Store the extra supply of oxygen cylinders away from... heat and direct sunlight.

Do not allow oxygen to freeze or overheat

 Do not allow empty oxygen cylinders to be placed near any heat source

# Keep:

Oil/petroleum products (such as Vaseline, oily lotions, face creams, or hair dressings

Grease

Flammable material away from oxygen.

***Wash your hands well after touching these types of products as you do not want them to come into contact with the fittings or hoses.***

Avoid using aerosols (such as room deodorizers) near oxygen

Dust the oxygen cylinder with a cotton cloth. Avoid draping or covering the system with any material

Keep open flames (such as gas stoves, and lighted candles) at least 10 feet away from the oxygen source

Have electrical equipment properly grounded.

Avoid operating electrical appliances such as razors and hairdryers while using oxygen. Keep any electrical equipment that may spark at least 10 feet from the oxygen system.

Use 100% cotton bed linens and clothing to prevent sparks and static electricity

Place oxygen cylinders in appropriate stand to prevent tipping. Or secured to the

wall. Or placed on their side on the floor. Store in a well-ventilated area and not

under outside porches or decks or in the trunk of a car.

Install a smoke detector in the room where the oxygen is being used and one outside the room

Make all caregivers and the patient aware of how to use the back-up generator, if there is one.