

Oxygen Administration

Oxygen is given to relieve hypoxia (a deficiency of oxygen reaching the tissues of the body), either local or generalized.

I. Personnel Involved

- A. School nurse
- B. Designated school personnel under indirect supervision
- C. School nurse as procedural supervisor

II. General Information

- A. A pupil may need continuous or PRN (whenever necessary) treatments at school.*
- B. The physician's order must specify:
 - 1. Flow rate (liters per minute)
 - 2. Method of administration (mask or nasal cannula)
 - 3. Specific indications for beginning and ending each treatment
- C. Oxygen supports combustion; therefore, danger of fire always exists when oxygen is being used:
 - 1. Do not permit smoking or open flames in the area.
 - 2. Remove highly combustible materials.
- D. The oxygen cylinder must be secured in an upright position away from heat and

in a reasonable proximity to the pupil in all of his or her school activities.

- E. This procedure must be authorized by a physician. The service must be reauthorized yearly by the prescribing physician and the parent.

III. Guidelines

- A. Purpose
To reduce hypoxia, either local or generalized
- B. Equipment (Parents are responsible for providing and maintaining equipment.)
 - 1. Oxygen tank on a stand with wheels for portability
 - 2. Tank with flow meter and pressure gauge that measures the level of oxygen remaining in the tank
 - 3. Humidifier if ordered
 - 4. Tubing and mask or cannula
 - 5. Any other equipment provided and recommended by the manufacturer or vendor
 - 6. Arrangements for routine maintenance of the oxygen tank

*PRN is from Latin *pro re nata*, "as needed"; "for a special emergency."

Oxygen Administration—Procedure

<i>Essential steps</i>	<i>Key points and precautions</i>	<i>Child specific</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ascertain whether the pupil has symptoms as described in the physician's orders. 2. Wash hands with soap and water. 3. Fill the humidifier, if ordered, with water. 4. Turn the main valve on and adjust the liter flow according to the manufacturer's directions. 5. Adjust the liter flow to the rate prescribed by the physician. 6. Place a mask or cannula on the pupil's face. 7. Continue treatment as prescribed by the physician or until symptoms disappear if this treatment is PRN. 8. Turn the tank off according to manufacturer's directions. Return the tank to a secure position in the storage area. Check the gauge for the oxygen level. 9. Record the procedure on the SPHCS log and inform the parent as needed. 	<p>Delete this step if an emergency occurs.</p> <p>These directions should be written and attached to the tank because they will vary according to each pupil's needs.</p> <p>Tubing needs to be cleaned or changed periodically, depending on how frequently treatments are done.</p>	