

Use of Portable Oxygen During Patient Transfers Initiative

What is this initiative about?

Adverse patient safety events have been reported across the province due to inadvertent discontinuation of patients' portable oxygen supply. The transfers within acute care policy, introduced in 2018, outlines practices to ensure that patients placed on portable oxygen sources are monitored appropriately and that an adequate supply of oxygen is consistently available.

These new practices apply to all acute care settings and all staff involved with patients being transferred on portable oxygen.

Experience has shown this policy makes patient care safer; it includes standardized direction for assessing patient risk and supports communication about patients' oxygen needs. As a result of implementing this policy during a pilot phase, there have been no further adverse patient safety events. A transfer ticket now accompanies the patient along the journey, to document the available oxygen supply and keep all attending staff aware.

Further work is ongoing to develop a provincial educational handout to help patients and families to preserve oxygen therapy while away from the care of staff.

- For more information on this project, contact respiratoryhealth.scn@ahs.ca
- For AHS & CH staff, please visit insite – Health Professions Strategy & Practice (HPSP) > Resources

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