

# Use of Portable Oxygen During Patient Transfers in Acute Care

## What is this 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 (HCS-205), introduced province-wide 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.

The policy includes standardized direction for assessing patient risk and supports communication about patients' oxygen needs, and a transfer ticket now accompanies the patient along the journey to document available oxygen supply and keep all attending staff aware.

There's an associated comprehensive toolkit, which includes an educational handout to help patients and families to preserve oxygen therapy while away from the care of staff.

## What are the results?

Experience has shown this policy makes patient care safer; safety event logs and periodic audits indicate the transfer ticket is a successful communication tool and its use consistently mitigates the issues.

This work was a joint effort between the Respiratory Health Section, Medicine Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) and Health Professions Strategy & Practice (HPSP).

For AHS & CH staff, please visit [Insite HPSP](#) → Resources to access the full toolkit.

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