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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Guidance for Provision of Oxygen for Foreign Travel

Patients and their families should be encouraged to plan ahead. They should explain their exact requirements with the airline/travel company with which they intend to travel **before** making their holiday booking.

For all patients that you feel require oxygen on flights or whilst abroad, the following actions are recommended:

For the flight:

- Make a decision as to whether you feel from a clinical perspective that they are fit to fly.
- If you require a fitness to fly test, please make a referral to a Paediatric Respiratory Consultant.
- A fitness to fly test involves testing the patient's oxygen saturations in 15% oxygen, which is equivalent to oxygen levels in the aeroplane cabin. The test will inform you of oxygen saturation levels in 15% oxygen and how oxygen saturations respond to 2l/min and 4l/min oxygen. It will not inform you of how oxygen saturations respond to the chronic long haul situation, nor what will happen should the child fall asleep on the journey. Consequently an empirical decision to give oxygen can often be made without any test at all.
- Every airline has a different policy for in-flight oxygen usage. Patients should therefore be advised to access the British Lung Foundation website's 'Airline Oxygen Policies' document - www.blf.org.uk/Page/Airline-oxygen-policies
- You will usually be required to fill in the medical section of a specific **Medical Information for Fitness to Travel form (MEDIF)** which can be obtained by your patient from the airline they are using. You will need to state the amount of oxygen required during the flight and the duration of recommended use. The choice is 2l/min or 4l/min and this may be given by nasal prongs (2l/min) or facemask.
- Some airlines will permit or require patients to provide their own oxygen, whereas others will only allow use of their own supply. This may or may not incur a charge.

For accommodation abroad:

Patients who receive domiciliary oxygen here in Wales will require oxygen at their holiday residence. The family will need to contact their home oxygen provider directly and ask for advice and contact details for appropriate oxygen providers abroad. Air products currently hold the contract for domiciliary oxygen in Wales and are available on 0800 373 580 for advice.

Companies providing oxygen abroad include:

Omega Advanced Aeromedical (WORLDWIDE)

www.omegaoxygen.com

info@omegaoxygen.com

Tel: 01273 308176

Airliquide (EUROPE)

www.uk.airliquide.com

Tel: 01675 462 424