



## P A T I E N T T O O L

# AIR TRAVEL WITH OXYGEN

(Condensed from TSA and FAA Web sites)

### OXYGEN AND ARRANGEMENTS

Passengers are responsible for making the arrangements for supplemental oxygen onboard the aircraft, during any layover stops, at the final destination, and for the return flight. You must also arrange to have the canister removed from the originating airport's gate area immediately after you leave the gate area to board the aircraft. You must make similar arrangements for your return trip. Some airlines do not provide in-flight supplemental oxygen, so check before booking your flight.

An alternative is a battery-powered portable oxygen concentrator. Check with your airline for specific requirements, including permitted brands, required number of battery backups, physician letters, and seating possibilities. An advantage of this device is that an oxygen provider at the destination becomes less urgent and perhaps unnecessary.

### SECURITY

Supplemental personal medical oxygen and other respiratory-related equipment and devices (eg, nebulizer, respirator) are permitted through the screening checkpoint once they have undergone screening.

Persons connected to oxygen:

- Inform the Security Officer if your oxygen supply or other respiratory-related equipment cannot be safely disconnected
- Only you can disconnect yourself to allow for your oxygen canister/system to be x-rayed. Review this with your doctor in advance
- Oxygen equipment will either undergo x-ray screening or physical inspection, and explosive trace detection inspection

### AIRLINE CHECKLIST

- Does the airline provide oxygen service?
- Is it available on the flights you wish to take?
- Do you need a doctor's letter to verify your medical need?
- Notify your carriers that you will need oxygen at the airports.
- Let them know that your O<sub>2</sub> supplier will be meeting you at the gate with a canister.

Continued



### **OXYGEN SUPPLIER CHECKLIST**

- Request arrangements for your O<sub>2</sub> at the cities you're visiting
- Furnish the supplier in advance with
  - Your airlines
  - Departure and arrival dates and time
  - Departure and arrival gates
  - Flight numbers
  - The equipment you will need
- If the oxygen-providing company is going to meet you with an O<sub>2</sub> canister, try to arrange a flight that arrives during the supplier's normal business hours
- Carry the local supplier's phone number and contact information with you

### **RESOURCES**

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TSA: [http://www.tsa.dhs.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial\\_1374.shtm#2](http://www.tsa.dhs.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1374.shtm#2)

FAA: [http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory\\_and\\_Guidance\\_Library/rgFAR.nsf/0/E51661CBF42E65C6862571E800593C2F?OpenDocument](http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library/rgFAR.nsf/0/E51661CBF42E65C6862571E800593C2F?OpenDocument)

Breathin' Easy: <http://www.breathineasy.com>

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/public/sept03/corner.htm#o2>

National Patient Air Transport Helpline: <http://www.patienttravel.org>

American Lung Association: <http://www.lungusa.org>