



OXYGEN REQUIREMENTS

QUICK REFERENCE (3 Ways to Qualify your Patients for Oxygen for Group I Oxygen)

Oxygen Level (SaO₂) on Room Air at Rest

If it is less than 89%, patient qualifies. No additional tests are required.

With Exertion or Exercise (*All three tests are required)

- Oxygen Level (SaO₂) on Room Air at Rest
- Oxygen Level on Room Air with Exercise
Must be <89% to qualify
- Oxygen Level during Exercise with Oxygen

Overnight Test: These must be ordered through IDS or the independent lab of your choice. IDS orders are available from us or online at www.instantdiagnostic.com or 1-800-239-5288. The patient's SaO₂ must be <89% for a total of 5 minutes during the test. The overnight test will only qualify your patient for oxygen in the home. It does not qualify them for portable tanks.

LITER FLOW GREATER THAN 4 LPM:

If basic oxygen coverage criteria have been met, a higher allowance for a stationary system for a flow rate of greater than 4 liters per minute (LPM) will be paid only if a blood gas study performed while the patient is on 4 LPM meets Group I or II criteria. If a flow rate greater than 4 LPM is billed and the coverage criterion for the higher allowance is not met, payment will be limited to the standard fee schedule allowance.

If a patient qualifies for additional payment for greater than 4 LPM of oxygen and also meets the requirements for portable oxygen, payment will be made for either the stationary system (at the higher allowance) or the portable system (at the standard fee schedule allowance for a portable system), but not both. In this situation, if both a stationary system and a portable system are billed for the same rental month, the portable oxygen system will be denied as not separately payable.

So in this case,
If the patient is going home on 5 liters or more

We would need the following documentation....

- 1) A SaO₂ on Room Air showing patient's SaO₂ is <89%
- 2) A SaO₂ on 4 liters showing she still falls below 89%
- 3) A SaO₂ on the ordered liter flow that is higher than 4 showing that she has improved

**The patient whose SaO₂ is 89% on room air at rest, exercise or sleep for 5 minutes, may qualify for

Group II coverage for 3 months if they also have the following documented in the medical record...

- Dependent Edema suggesting CHF
- Pulmonary hypertension or cor pulmonale
- Erythrocythemia (hematocrit >56%)

This is just a quick reference not to replace Medicare's policy. Please contact any of our locations if you have any questions.

Thank you.