

Medical Oxygen

Medicinal gas, compressed

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Compressed Medical Oxygen
Oxygen 99.5%
Medicinal gas, compressed

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet as you may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, ask your healthcare professional (doctor, nurse or pharmacist) or homecare provider.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you.
- Do not pass it on to others as it may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects become serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your healthcare professional or homecare provider immediately.

This leaflet gives you information about:

1. What Medical Oxygen is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Medical Oxygen
3. How to use Medical Oxygen
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Medical Oxygen cylinders
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. WHAT MEDICAL OXYGEN IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR?

Medical Oxygen is a medicinal gas, supplied in cylinders filled to a high pressure.

Medical Oxygen is used:

- during anaesthesia and for recovery following surgery
- to treat or prevent oxygen deficiency in the body in many different situations such as:
 - surgery or major trauma such as a road traffic accident
 - heart attacks
 - severe blood loss
 - carbon monoxide poisoning
 - severe lung and heart conditions
 - very high fevers
- for resuscitation of adults, children and babies
- for treatment of cluster headaches.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU USE MEDICAL OXYGEN

Medical Oxygen is only prescribed to you by a healthcare professional.

Ensure that your healthcare professional is aware of any medical conditions that you may have.

Take special care when using Medical Oxygen if:

- your baby requires extra oxygen and is premature. Only give the amount of Medical Oxygen advised by your healthcare professional
- you are suffering from chronic lung disease, such as bronchitis or emphysema. The amount of Medical Oxygen used must be carefully controlled to the flow rate you have been advised to use by your healthcare professional
- you have accidentally taken Paraquat (a type of weed killer), advise your healthcare professional before using Medical Oxygen, as there is a possibility of toxic effects to the lungs

Taking other medicines

If you have been taking or prescribed Bleomycin (to treat cancer), Amiodarone (to treat an irregular heartbeat) or Nitrofurantoin and similar antibiotics (to treat infection), advise your healthcare professional before using Medical Oxygen, as there is a possibility of toxic effects to the lungs.

Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy and breast feeding

Medical Oxygen will not affect you or your baby if used during pregnancy or whilst breast feeding.

Driving and using machines

You may drive and use machines after using Medical Oxygen providing that your healthcare professional considers that you are both fit and capable.

3. HOW TO USE MEDICAL OXYGEN

Instructions for use

In a hospital or clinic Medical Oxygen will be given to you by a healthcare professional. They will ensure that your Medical Oxygen supply is suitable for your use and that the correct equipment has been set up so that you receive the right amount of oxygen.

To breathe your Medical Oxygen you will either be given a face mask or a nasal cannula. The prongs on the cannula are inserted into your nostrils and the tubing is placed over your ears and adjusted under your neck for comfort. The face mask or nasal cannula is connected to your oxygen system with the tubing provided. Always use your Medical Oxygen exactly as your healthcare professional has shown you and at the correct flow rate. You should check with your healthcare professional if you are not sure.

If you are using the gas at home you will be given full training by your homecare provider on the use of the cylinder and equipment when you receive your first supply.

When using your Medical Oxygen at home, you must:

- ensure that the cylinder is stood upright on a flat surface and supported so that it will not fall over. Small cylinders may be laid down if appropriate. Never place the cylinder on your bed when it is in use
- ensure the tamper evident seal is removed
- check the contents gauge on the cylinder or the regulator before you start to make sure there is enough gas available for your use
- check that the tubing is correctly fitted to the outlet
- select the flow prescribed by your healthcare professional, as advised by your homecare provider

- ensure that your cylinder and any additional delivery equipment is kept free from oil and grease
- open the cylinder valve slowly
- turn the cylinder valve 'OFF' with moderate force only when the cylinder is not in use
- if a leak occurs, this will be evident by a hissing noise. Close the cylinder valve and check the connection of the tubing to the outlet. If the leak continues close the valve and contact your homecare provider
- close the valve when the cylinder is empty with moderate force only
- vent integral valves by turning the flow selector to a flow setting and allow the gas to vent. Once empty, turn the flow selector to zero, disconnect equipment and replace outlet cap where fitted, after use

Always use your Medical Oxygen exactly as your homecare provider has shown you. You should check with your homecare provider if you are not sure.

DO NOT SMOKE or let anyone else smoke near your Medical Oxygen gas cylinder.

DO NOT use your oxygen cylinder near open fires or naked flames as oxygen will make a flame burn much more violently.

NEVER use oil based moisturising creams with your cylinder equipment. If using alcohol gels allow plenty of time for the alcohol gel to dry before handling your oxygen equipment.

If you use more Medical Oxygen than you should
In most cases it is unlikely that an overdose could occur if you follow your healthcare professional's advice.

If you are concerned that you have used too much Medical Oxygen and feel unwell or if you have any questions on the correct use of Medical Oxygen, please ask your healthcare professional.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Medical Oxygen may cause side effects, although not everybody will get them.

The side effects that may occur whilst using Medical Oxygen are:

- soreness of the chest associated with coughing and breathing difficulties after breathing pure oxygen for a prolonged period (6–12 hours). This is made worse by smoking and exposure to cold air
- dizziness, fits and loss of consciousness after 2–3 hours of exposure, which can occur if you are treated with high pressure (hyperbaric) oxygen in pressurised chambers
- eye damage (retrolental fibroplasia) which can result in blindness, which may occur with new born babies if they are exposed to oxygen concentrations of more than 40%.

Reporting of side effects

If you experience any of these side effects, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, contact your healthcare professional immediately.

You can also report side effects directly via:

HPRA Pharmacovigilance

Earlsfort Terrace

IRL - Dublin 2

Tel +353 1 6764971

Fax +353 1 6762517

Website www.hpra.ie

email medsafety@hpra.ie

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE MEDICAL OXYGEN CYLINDERS

Do not use Medical Oxygen after the expiry date which is stated on the cylinder batch label. Medical Oxygen should be used in strict rotation so that cylinders with the earliest filling date are used first.

Cylinder storage

Store your Medical Oxygen cylinders:

- so that they can not fall over and cause injury
- in clean, well ventilated and dry conditions, not exposed to extremes of heat or cold
- away from oil, grease and flammable material
- in a designated area, where they can be kept separate from other medical and non-medical cylinders, with empty and full cylinders kept apart
- out of sight and reach of children

Handling cylinders

Always handle your Medical Oxygen cylinders with care, only moving them using an appropriate trolley, handling device or carrying bag.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What Medical Oxygen Contains

Your Medical Oxygen cylinder contains a minimum of 99.5% oxygen.

There are no other ingredients.

Medical Oxygen cylinders

Medical Oxygen is supplied in the following size cylinders to hospitals and clinics:

Cylinder Size	Cylinder Contents (Litres)	Cylinder Size	Cylinder Contents (Litres)
AZ*	170	F*	1360
ZA	300	HX*	2300
D*	340	ZX	3040
CD	460	G*	3400
ZD	605	J*	6800
E*	680	W	11300

Medical Oxygen is supplied in the following size cylinders for homecare use:

Cylinder Size	Cylinder Contents (Litres)	Cylinder Size	Cylinder Contents (Litres)
ZA	300	AF*	680
CD	460	DF*	1360
DD	460	ZH	2400

The colour coding of the shoulder of oxygen cylinders is white. The body is colour coded white apart from the cylinders marked (*) in the table above which for a limited period may have a black body.



Shoulder of cylinders viewed from above



Body of cylinder types viewed from the side

Sizes ZA, ZD, CD, DD, DF, HX, ZH and ZX cylinders are supplied with an integral pressure regulator built into the cylinder valve.

All other cylinders require a separate pressure regulator to be fitted to the cylinder valve before use.

Marketing authorisation holder and manufacturer

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Tel 1800 370700
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Manufacturer

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Prince Regent Road, Castlereagh,
Northern Ireland, BT5 6RW

This leaflet was last approved in

12/2016