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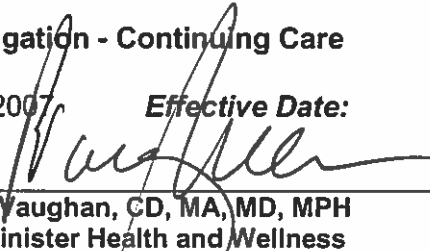
# NOVA SCOTIA

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**Policy:** Home Oxygen Service Policy

**Originating Branch:** Risk Mitigation - Continuing Care

**Original Approval Date:** July 10, 2007      **Effective Date:** March 1, 2016

**Approved By:**   
Dr. Peter Vaughan, CD, MA, MD, MPH  
Deputy Minister Health and Wellness

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**Version #: 2**

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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. The Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) funds the Home Oxygen Service to provide eligible residents of Nova Scotia access to long term oxygen therapy.
- 1.2. The purpose of this policy is for the DHW to set the directives and requirements of the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and vendors for the delivery of this service, as well as the responsibilities of the clients. The associated *Home Oxygen Service Procedures and Guidelines* and the *Home Oxygen Standards for Quality Service* further outline the parameters of the Home Oxygen Service and form part of this policy.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **Client:** A person who is determined to be eligible, meeting the general eligibility and medical eligibility requirements as defined in the Home Oxygen Service Procedures and Guidelines and receives DHW funded home oxygen services.
- 2.2. **Designated Physicians:** Respiriologists and internists throughout Nova Scotia who are authorized by the Department of Health and Wellness to determine medical eligibility for the Home Oxygen Service provided through the NSHA.
- 2.3. **Medical Consultant:** A physician contracted by the DHW to provide advice and consultation for departmental staff, recruitment and consultation for designated physicians, and serve as a resource for authorized vendors, on matters related to home oxygen services.
- 2.4. **Vendor:** A business that has met all of the requirements for the Home Oxygen Service and holds an executed vendor agreement with DHW to provide equipment and related supplies for Home Oxygen Service clients.

### 3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To ensure that Nova Scotians residing at home or in long term care facilities have access to safe and reliable oxygen services that meet their health care needs.
- 3.2. To hold NSHA and vendors accountable for the safe, effective and efficient delivery of quality home oxygen services.

### 4. APPLICATION

- 4.1. This policy applies to the DHW Risk Mitigation - Continuing Care Branch, NSHA and the Home Oxygen Service vendors, clients, designated physicians and medical consultant.

### 5. POLICY DIRECTIVES

- 5.1. NSHA will administer the Home Oxygen Service in accordance with the *Home Oxygen Service Procedures and Guidelines*. See Appendix 11.2 of this policy.
- 5.2. The vendors will provide equipment and services in accordance with the *Home Oxygen Service Procedures and Guidelines* and will meet the standards set by the *Home Oxygen Standards for Quality Service*.
- 5.3. Vendors will comply with all federal, provincial and municipal legislation.
- 5.4. Home Oxygen Service clients may be required to pay a portion of the monthly costs as a fee. Applicable fees are determined in accordance with the DHW home care fee determination process.

### 6. POLICY GUIDELINES

N/A

### 7. ACCOUNTABILITY

- 7.1. The Executive Director, Risk Mitigation - Continuing Care Branch is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- 7.2. NSHA and vendors are responsible for demonstrating adherence to the directives of this policy.
- 7.3. NSHA is responsible to comply with the DHW auditing processes intended to measure compliance with this policy.
- 7.4. Vendors are responsible to comply with the DHW auditing processes intended to measure compliance with this policy and the *Home Oxygen Standards for Quality Service*.
- 7.5. NSHA and vendors are responsible for demonstrating adherence to recommendations put forth in any existing or future related audits of the Home Oxygen Service.

**8. MONITORING / OUTCOME MEASUREMENT**

- 8.1. The implementation, performance, and effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the Executive Director, Risk Mitigation - Continuing Care Branch, DHW.

**9. REPORTS**

- 9.1. The Nova Scotia Health Authority and the vendors shall comply with all performance measurement and reporting requirements for the Home Oxygen Service, as determined by the DHW.

**10. REFERENCES**

- 10.1. *Home Oxygen Standards for Quality Service, edition 1 (or as updated)*
- 10.2. *Home Care Policy Manual, s. 14.2, Home Support Fee Determination Process*

**11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1. *Home Support Services/Home Oxygen Services Fee Determination Table*
- 11.2. *Home Oxygen Service Procedures and Guidelines.*

**12. VERSION CONTROL**

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- 12.1. *Version Control: Replacement of Home Oxygen Services Program Policy  
Version # 01 July 10, 2007*
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**13. INQUIRIES**

- 13.1. Director, Liaison and Service Support  
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