OXYGEN CONSERVING DEVICES

Purpose: Oxygen conserving devices' sole purpose is to conserve the oxygen that would otherwise be wasted, thus increasing the duration of portable oxygen systems. A physician must write a prescription for oxygen and the conserving device. Conserving devices do affect the amount of oxygen provided to the patient and they must be under the supervision of a physician. Always abide by all of the manufacturer's operational and safety procedures.

Types: There are two basic types of conserving devices, fixed-pulse or demand-pulse. The fixed-pulse type delivers a pulse of oxygen when the patient initiates a breath. The oxygen flow stops at a preset limit. These devices have higher flowrates in the beginning of the flow of oxygen, and thus are the most conserving. These devices are usually best for those patients with stable oxygen needs.

Demand-pulse units deliver an amount of oxygen that meets more of the patient need. Oxygen flow is started when the patient initiates a breath and usually continues until the patient has stopped inhaling. This type is usually better for active individuals and those with varying needs.

Deciding: Deciding on which type to use is based on patient needs. Discount Drug Mart Professional Medical Equipment and Services consults with your physician and utilizes the type that best meets your needs. We maintain a supply of both types. If at any time you feel your oxygen needs are not being met by your conserving device call Discount Drug Mart Professional Medical Equipment and Services immediately. The amount of conserving varies greatly depending upon the type you are using, the oxygen flowrate, and the frequency of your breathing. The patient must understand that the conserving times they may have heard about from other patients or television commercials, may not apply to them because of these variants. Some patients may not tolerate the conserving device at all.

Use: Most conserving devices require special oxygen regulators. Do not attempt to attach any regulator to a conserving device that was not manufactured for that specific purpose. Make sure all operational and safety procedures are followed at all times. The conserving

device usually attaches to a regulator via a tube or directly. Make sure your conserving device has the correct settings and batteries. Most conserving devices require a power source, usually rechargeable nickel cadmium. Battery types vary depending on brand used. Make sure you pay attention to the amount of oxygen in your tanks. Conserving devices are made of sophisticated electronics and should not be abused or banged around. Always keep unit in designated carrying pouch. **When using a conserving device do not use a humidifier.**