



Oregon

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Policy Change – November 16, 2006

Oxygen

In consideration of a licensee's request to use oxygen in an emergency situation, the Board adopted the following policy:

After some discussion the Board agreed to communicate to licensees that the Board of Medical Examiner rules state that providing oxygen in an emergency situation is NOT practicing medicine; therefore it is allowable for a chiropractic physician to use in medical emergencies.

Previously, the Board determined after consultation with the Board of Pharmacy, medical oxygen is on the Food and Drug Administration's list of drugs and substances which require a prescription. Based on this information, clearly medical oxygen is outside the chiropractic scope of practice and chiropractic physicians may not prescribe oxygen for a therapeutic purposes. (4/27/00)] **3/16/06**

Oxygen in Emergencies

Chiropractic physicians may obtain oxygen units on an over-the-counter non-prescription basis provided a few basic requirements are met. Use of portable oxygen units for clinic emergencies is currently taught at Western States Chiropractic College. Access to emergency oxygen could be useful in the event of a cardiac arrest or other incident in which a patient may stop or have difficulty breathing. These OTC oxygen units are readily available over the Web from a variety of distributors.

According to the FDA, any oxygen inhaled by a human or animal is considered a drug as per section 201(g)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), and is required to be dispensed by prescription. *However*, the agency allows medical oxygen to be dispensed without a prescription to properly trained individuals for oxygen deficiency and resuscitation, as long as the following conditions are met:

- 1) A high-pressure cylinder filled with medical oxygen and used for oxygen deficiency and resuscitation must have the following statement present on the drug label: "For emergency use only when administered by properly trained personnel for oxygen deficiency and resuscitation. For all other medical applications, Rx Only."
- 2) The equipment intended for such use must deliver a minimum flow rate of 6 liters of oxygen per minute for a minimum of 15 minutes, and include a content gauge and an appropriate mask or administration device, and
- 3) Proper training is documentation that an individual has received training within the past twenty-four months or other appropriate interval, in the use of emergency oxygen including

providing oxygen to both breathing and non-breathing patients, and safe use and handling of emergency oxygen equipment. Training may be obtained from any nationally recognized professional organization, such as the National Safety Council, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, etc. Under no circumstances can emergency oxygen be used to fill high-pressure cylinders or be used in a mixture or blend.

Once all of these conditions are met, an individual may have access to medical oxygen without a prescription. **(11/16/06)**