

SAIL Home Oxygen Program Tester's Newsletter

Winter 2017

Published by The Lung Association, Saskatchewan



Next Home Oxygen Tester's Workshop via Telehealth
Tuesday, March 21 @ 1400-1600

For more information click [here](#).

Interview with Oxygen Tester - Deign Salido, RRT

How long have you been working as a Registered Respiratory Therapist? Since 1996

- 1996 – Graduated as a RT from Kamloops, BC; then worked for Medigas Homecare in Saskatoon as Respiratory Specialist
- 1997-1999- Initiated Respiratory Therapy services in North Battleford Union Hospital
- 1999-present : RRT at FH Wigmore Regional Hospital, Moose Jaw, SK

How long have you been doing oxygen testing?
21 years. I became a Certified Oxygen Tester in 1996.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Using my skills as a respiratory therapist and applying it with clients who are in respiratory distress. Our specific set of skills allows us to be an integral part of the health care team that can make a significant impact on the outcome of patient care.

As an O₂ tester, my favourite part is consulting with the patient in regards to their O₂ requirements.



Tips for other oxygen testers?

Make sure your paperwork for testing and requisition is done neatly, legibly, and correctly.

Concerns regarding home oxygen?

Any patient concerns regarding home oxygen care or treatment can be reported directly to SAIL at 1-888-787-8996.

Rural Nocturnal Oximetry Updates

The Lung Association of Saskatchewan is contracted by the SAIL program to provide oximeters for nocturnal testing in rural areas. This testing can be time consuming, involving shipping, contacting the client, returning the machine, and in some cases, organizing oxygen for the second night of testing. The system works best if the oximeter is returned to The Lung Association promptly and within a week of the test.

Process Changes

Process changes have been made to the nocturnal testing process in the past few months with positive results in decreasing the waitlist for testing. With these changes, the wait list has been decreased significantly. We continue to work on the timeline so that the testing process is timely for all clients. Process changes have now been added to the [Home Oxygen Handbook](#). **Thank you so much for your help in helping improve the process and helping our clients breathe easier.**

Order Form

Updates have been made to the order form to prioritize clients easier. A prescriber's (physician/NP) order must be included with all nocturnal oximetry order forms. The prescriber's order and signature can be on the oximetry order form itself but most often is documented on the appropriate local health region order form. If you use the online order form, the prescriber's order must be faxed over separately. Order forms and other documents are located [here](#).

Testing Reminders:

- All oxygen testing requires an order from a physician or nurse practitioner
- Continuous (resting) oxygen testing should be completed before any exertional testing.
- Both exertional and nocturnal testing requires the client to be STABLE. Client who has not had a hospitalization for a cardiorespiratory event, or had an exacerbation, or change of treatment in the past 30 days.
- To be eligible for exertional oxygen funding, oximetry on room air must show:
 1. A minimum of 20 seconds of continuous oxygen saturation < 87% and
 2. An improvement in exercise capacity of 20% with supplementary oxygen must be documented.
- **ALWAYS write down the date of testing. This is the number one reason SAIL cannot fund oxygen promptly which creates delays for the client and extra work for the oxygen vendor and SAIL.**

Lung Association News

The Lung Association Welcomes CEO, Susan Cron

Please [join us](#) in welcoming a dynamic leader who is passionate about lung health and is strongly committed to the residents of our great province. The Lung Association is Saskatchewan's oldest health charity and the leader in promoting lung health.

"I am very pleased to be joining The Lung Association as the new Chief Executive Officer. The Lung Association is the leading organization in Canada working hard to promote lung health and prevent and manage lung disease. We do a lot of our work right here in Saskatchewan and fund vital research, advocating for improved treatment and help those living with lung disease. We have a history of saving lives from our early work in managing tuberculosis in our province and with your help I hope we can continue to save lives for our future generations by creating a world where there are healthy lungs for everyone."

- Susan Cron



Marion Laroque's Retirement

As most of you know, Marion Laroque retired from her role with the SAIL Home Oxygen program. Here is a picture from her last day in May 2016. Congratulations, Marion!

The Lung Association Mission

To improve lung health one breath at a time. Our purpose is to improve respiratory health and the overall quality of life through programs, education, research, training, treatment and prevention of lung disease and promotion of a healthy environment and healthy lifestyles.

Ethical Considerations

The relationship between the client and oxygen supplier is a business arrangement. It is unethical to accept elaborate gifts or payment from oxygen suppliers for referrals. Gifts can carry an implied expectation of reciprocity. While accepting gifts may not consciously affect your decision-making, the presence of the items is likely to make you think positively of the company or product. It may be seen as a product endorsement by clients or other suppliers.

Most oxygen testers in Saskatchewan are registered nurses, but the following guidelines can be a helpful tip for all testers. The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) [Ethics Guidelines for Industry Sponsorships](#) (2015) states that:

“RNs must fully disclose any gifts or entertainment offered them by private industry in their professional role. RNs may only accept from private industry inexpensive gifts of materials or supplies of a professional nature that will enhance their workplace.”

Home Oxygen Suppliers:

There are five oxygen suppliers in Saskatchewan.

It is the clients decision to choose the oxygen company that will provide the best service and pricing for their needs.



Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living ([SAIL](#))

1-888-787-8996



The Division of Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine is pleased to introduce a new research study and program at the University of Saskatchewan and Royal University Hospital.

Research Study and Program: Evaluation of Telehealth for the Assessment and Follow-up of Lung Cancer Patients from Rural Saskatchewan - The Thoracic Oncology Program at the University of Saskatchewan (TOPUS)

Who: Any patient ≥ 18 yrs of age who lives ≥ 100 kilometers from Saskatoon whom you think might have lung cancer and requires an assessment by a Respiriologist (Lung Specialist)

What is it? Patients will have their initial assessment and follow up done by a nurse clinician using telehealth. Their history, lab findings and imaging will be reviewed by one of the Respiriologists with the nurse clinician. Patients will have access to a full array of diagnostic and staging modalities including bronchoscopy and endobronchial ultrasound.

Why? We are studying patient satisfaction with telehealth as well as access to diagnostic tests and treatment with telehealth. We are also interested in whether or not this approach improves access to healthcare and shortens wait-times for rural patients

Please contact us if you are interested or have a patient you would like to refer. Patients are not obligated to be involved; we will be happy to discuss their involvement with them directly. Referrals outside of research studies still accepted.

Contact Info - Principal Investigator:

Dr. Chung-Chun (Anderson) Tyan MBBS, FRCPC

Clinical Assistant Professor - Respiriology and Interventional Pulmonary Medicine Division of Respiriology, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

420 - 210 Ave P S, Saskatoon

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, S7M 2W2

Phone: (306) 956-3444 (Monday – Friday 0830 – 1630)

Fax: (306) 956-3575

24-Hour Emergency Contact: (306) 655-1000