Title: Humidified Oxygen and Oxygen Humidity Bottles: Evidence for Use and Guidelines

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Research questions:

1. Is there any evidence that disposable pre-filled humidifiers used with oxygen therapy can be used for multiple patients?

2. What are the guidelines for the length of use for disposable pre-filled humidifiers?

3. What are the guidelines for patient populations that should use humidified oxygen?

Methods:

Part 1 (Research questions 1 and 2)

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results were not limited by date; however, they were limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to limit retrieval by study type. Internet links are provided, where available.

Part 2 (Research question 3)

A limited literature search conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results were limited by date from 1998 to 2008, and to English language publications only. The results were filter by type of study such as systematic reviews, randomized clinical trials, observational studies, and for guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.
Results:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs), observational studies and evidence-based guidelines.

Four observational studies were identified pertaining to the evidence for the use of pre-filled humidifiers for patients on oxygen therapy. Two RCTs and two observational studies were identified pertaining to the patient populations that should use humidified oxygen. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews or guidelines were identified pertaining to either the length of use for disposable pre-filled humidifiers or for patient populations that should use humidified oxygen. Additional information that may be of interest is included in the appendix.

Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized controlled trials

Use of pre-filled disposable humidifiers
No literature identified.

Patient population for humidified oxygen


Observational studies

Use of pre-filled disposable humidifiers


Patient population for humidified oxygen


Guidelines and recommendations
No literature identified.

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Appendix – further information:

Additional references
