



**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Health & Family Welfare.  
Swasthya Bhawan, Salt Lake.  
Block – GN, 29; Sector: V. Kolkata: 700091.**

Memo No. 4/845

dated 26.4.2021

**Guideline for Oxygen therapy**

Oxygen is a precious drug and there is a sudden rise of demand due to recent Covid Pandemic situation. Judicial use of oxygen is of paramount importance especially considering the present situation. The simplified State guideline for judicial Oxygen use has been prepared by a team of Expert in consultation of the recently published GOI guideline. Each Hospital should strictly follow this guideline to prevent misuse and to administer oxygen appropriately to each patient who requires it.

**When to start:**

When SpO<sub>2</sub> becomes less than 94%

Indication	Oxygen Device	Flow rate	Target SpO <sub>2</sub> :	
SpO <sub>2</sub> =85-93% (at the beginning/ time of admission)	Nasal Prong	1-6 L/min	(a) During Initial stabilization: ≥ 94%	<div style="text-align: center;">           Escalate ↑            ↓            De-escalate         </div>
	Simple Face mask	6-10 L/min		
SpO <sub>2</sub> <85% (at the beginning/ time of admission)	NRBM	10-15 L/min	(b) After initial stabilisation: 92-96% (88-92% in known COPD)	
	HFNO	Upto 60 L/min		

- **DE-ESCALATE** device and flow once target saturation is reached and use the minimum flow for maintaining target Saturation.
- **ESCALATE** if needed from Nasal Prongs to Simple Face Mask to NRBM, if patient does not maintain Target saturation.
- Allow at least 5 minutes for reaching / maintaining Target Saturation after each escalation / de-escalation of device / dose to check response except when there is immediate drop in SpO<sub>2</sub> > / = 3% while de-escalating (act fast in that case)
- **Oxygen prescription** should include: (a) Device (b) Flow rate (b) Target saturation
- **Referral:** CCU / HDU referral if Target saturation is not maintained with NRBM @ 10 L/min
- **Awake proning** should be combined with oxygen therapy in patients not maintaining Target saturation with > 2 L / min Oxygen by Nasal prongs or any higher oxygen dose if (a) Well tolerated (b) No contraindications.
- De-escalate oxygen device and dose during Awake proning procedure if target saturation is reached.

*[Signature]*  
26/4/21  
**Director of Health Services  
Govt. of West Bengal**

*[Signature]*  
26/04/2021  
**Director of Medical Education  
Government of West Bengal**

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26/4/21  
**Director of Health Services  
Govt. of West Bengal**

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26/04/2021  
**Director of Medical Education  
Government of West Bengal**