

## Patient information

# Travelling with Your Ventilator

Liverpool Sleep and Ventilation Service – Aintree Hospital

### Travelling with your Ventilator

This is a leaflet to provide advice to anyone wishing to travel who routinely uses Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV).

**NIV** is a treatment which uses a machine and mask to support a person with their breathing.

If you are travelling in the UK or abroad you should be aware the breakdown service does not cover an area beyond an 80-mile radius of Liverpool. If your machine breaks down outside this area you may need to return to rectify this, or consider taking a spare machine if this is not practical.

### What to do before travelling

- Before booking it is advisable to contact the travel company and airline or passage provider, (i.e. ferry, rail or coach company) to check what requirements they have and inform them you will be carrying medical equipment.
- You will likely need a letter from your consultant to state your need for the medical equipment. Please contact the NIV secretary or discuss this with your consultant at your clinic visit.
- Please ensure you have an adequate supply of consumables, (mask, tubing, filters, etc.) to allow for loss or breakage while you are away.
- If you are travelling to a country with a power supply different to the UK please check with the manufacturer of any medical equipment that you are taking to check that is suitable to use with an international plug adapter.
- Check with your physiotherapist or consultant your level of dependency on the machine so you know what risks there are if you should be without your machine for part of your trip. Ventilator users that are deemed to be ventilator dependent (using NIV for more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period) should already have two ventilators with batteries.
- Anyone unable to safely miss several nights off the machine should take away at least one spare ventilator and battery backup. You will need to give us at least eight weeks' notice to arrange this.
- You may need a self-inflating resuscitation bag as an extra precaution. You should also have an action plan of what to do in the event of both machines not working.

- You should have a written copy of your ventilator settings with you and a letter to state your diagnosis and reason for using the machine.
- You should ensure you have adequate insurance to cover the loss or damage of the machine and to cover your health requirements. You will need to discuss your needs with your insurance provider personally.
- If you use oxygen or are concerned about your oxygen levels ask your consultant if you are safe to fly or if you need supplementary oxygen on the flight. You will need to make your own arrangements to ensure you have oxygen available to you on your trip.
- Allow extra time to clear security check points, and always check with the travel company and your destination for any additional requirements they may have. You may have to do this well in advance of travelling to allow adequate time to gather the documentation you need.
- If you are unsure about travelling please contact the physiotherapists for advice.

### **Flying with your NIV machine**

- If you are planning to carry your device on a flight you must **only do so as hand luggage**.
- The machine is fragile medical equipment and at risk of being damaged so **must not be carried in the hold**.
- You will need a letter from your consultant stating that it is medical equipment. If you are advised you may need to wear the NIV machine during the flight the letter will state this.
- You must ensure you have notified the airline you are travelling with a ventilator and check any additional requirements they may have about its use or carriage.
- Ensure you carry the device's user manual to help security personnel understand its purpose at security checkpoints, if you are not in possession of a manual ask your NIV physiotherapist to provide you with one.
- For your convenience at security check points there is a note on the bottom of the device stating that it is medical equipment and is suitable for airline use.
- You cannot use humidifiers or modems in flight with your ventilator.

**Most airlines will not allow you to use your ventilator during take-off and landing.**

### **Individual Device Information**

- **Trilogy/Trilogy EVO** - This device has been flight tested (complies with RTCA/DO-160F section 21, category M) so **can only be used during the flight when it is operating from a battery source**.

The trilogy comes with an internal and external detachable battery but you would need to ensure you have adequate additional batteries to cover 150% of the duration of the flight and any delays.

The machine is not suitable for use on airlines using their AC or DC power source.

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- **A40** - This device has been flight tested (complies with RTCA/DO-160F section 21, category M) so **can be used during the flight when it is operating from an AC or DC power source.**

This device is not suitable for use on airlines with any modems or humidifiers installed. Please remove these devices and store them securely until you reach your destination when it can be installed again.

- **Lumis**- This device has been flight tested (complies with RTCA/DO-160F section 21, category M) so **can be used during the flight when it is operating from an AC or DC power source.**

### **Evidence of compliance**

If asked about the devices suitability for use when traveling by air, please refer to the Airline Use symbol on the device label on the bottom of the ventilator for additional information and compliance.

### **Travelling with other medical devices**

- If you use any other medical devices such as a cough assist, humidifier, nebuliser or suction machine you will need to check with the manufacturer about its carriage and use during a flight; and its suitability to use abroad.
- It is likely that all medical equipment would need to be carried as hand luggage due its fragility.
- Cough assist devices are not currently suitable for in flight use but check with your physiotherapist, they may be able to provide you with advice or alternative equipment to help manage chest secretions.

### **Feeling Unwell?**

- If you are feeling unwell when travelling you would need to seek medical advice from the local health resource or hospital.
- It is essential that you have adequate medical insurance to cover expenses in this event.
- In the event you need medical assistance please bring this leaflet, any medical equipment you use, manuals and supporting letters from our consultant to explain your medical condition.

### **Equipment and Machine settings**

#### **Ventilator**

**Model:**

**Serial no.**

**Humidifier:**            **Yes / No**

**Model:**

**Serial no.**

### Ventilator settings:

DATE:		TV	
IPAP		Ti	
EPAP		Oxygen	
BPM		Alarms	
Mode			

### Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

### Further information

#### Physiotherapy Ventilation Team

**For any queries/advice about the machine, e.g., if you are unsure about the use of your machine or masks, please contact one of the physiotherapists at Aintree Hospital.**

**Telephone Hospital Switchboard on 0151 525 5980 and ask for BLEEP 3334**

**Available: Mon – Fri, 9 am - 4 pm.**

**Please be aware that we are working on the ward, and we will answer your call as soon we can. Please stay on the line until we respond.**

#### Machine Maintenance and repair

**For a breakdown or fault with the machine, please contact an engineer at Deva Medical on:**

**Office hours: 01928 565 836**

**Out of Hours Emergency Number: 0772 088 3276**

**Your ventilator should be serviced yearly by Deva Medical. They will contact you when the service is due, to arrange a convenient time to visit your home and carry out the service.**

## **For replacement equipment:**

**Please do not telephone for replacement equipment. This must be requested by letter or email [sleep.lab@aintree.nhs.uk](mailto:sleep.lab@aintree.nhs.uk) ensuring you state exactly the equipment you require.**

### **Address:**

**The Sleep Laboratory  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Aintree Hospital  
Longmoor Lane  
Liverpool  
L9 7AL**

**Please ensure that you have a spare mask, filters and tubing at all times in case of accidental breakage or wear and tear at all times**

**Please also allow at least two weeks for the postal delivery of requested equipment.**

## **For Out of Hours Advice Only**

**You may contact Ward 6 Ventilation Inpatient Centre for urgent advice only on Tel:0151 529 3602**

## **Additional sources of information**

**The websites listed below offer additional information and points to consider before travelling abroad with your ventilator.**

**<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/ventilators>**

**<http://www.livingwithavent.com/pages.aspx?page=Living/Travel>**

**<http://www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/val17-3c.html>**

**[http://www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/val\\_26-6dec12p3-5.pdf](http://www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/val_26-6dec12p3-5.pdf)**

**The British Lung Foundation offers general advice about travelling with a lung condition.**

**You can contact them on 03000 030 555 or you can write to:**

**British Lung Foundation  
73-75 Goswell Road  
London  
EC1V 7ER**

**Or website: <http://www.blf.org.uk/support-for-you/going-on-holiday>**

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والإلكترونية.

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در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پئوه‌ندیدار بهو نه‌خوشانه‌ی له‌لایهن تراسته‌وه په‌سهند کراون، ئه‌گهر داوا بکرنیت له فۆرماته‌کانی تر‌دا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، ئیزی رید (هاسان خویندنه‌وه)، چاپی گه‌وره، شریتی دهنگ، هیلای موون و ئه‌لیکترۆنیکی هه‌یه.

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Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.