

March 2022

SWEP Covid Oxygen Program FAQ's

What is the Covid Oxygen Program?

The Covid Oxygen Program was established to support Victorian Public Hospitals facilitate rapid discharge for people recovering from Covid who have a short term need for supplementary oxygen.

Who funds the Covid Oxygen Program?

The Covid Oxygen Program is funded by the State Government.

Who manages the Covid Oxygen Program?

The Covid Oxygen Program is managed by the State-wide Equipment Program (SWEP) at Grampians Health. More information and contact details can be found on the SWEP website. <https://swep.bhs.org.au/covid-oxygen.php>

Why was the program established?

The program was established to provide a centralised process for oxygen supply, ensure that there is a secure supply chain and that key reserves can be maintained with equitable access for people regardless of their geographical location in Victoria.

Who is eligible to receive assistance through the Covid Oxygen Program?

Permanent Victorian residents who are recovering from Covid and can be safely managed at home following discharge from a public hospital.

What is the clinical eligibility criteria to access the program?

The Covid clinical indicators include testing results \leq SpO2 93% room air and referral by a General Physician.

What type of oxygen equipment can be supplied?

The 'standard' Covid Oxygen Package includes:

- Oxygen concentrator (1-6 LPM)
- Oxygen conserving device (regulator)
- Option of a cylinder trolley or bag (one device only)
- 4 x portable 470L oxygen cylinders
- Nasal cannula/mask
- Oxygen tubing

Additional options including higher flow concentrators, larger size cylinders and oximiser pendants can be requested where clinically justified.

How do I access equipment for my patient?

The Covid Oxygen Program Referral needs to be completed a minimum of 24 hours prior to discharge and forwarded to SWEP. The referral is located on the SWEP website <https://swep.bhs.org.au/covid-oxygen.php>

Once completed by the prescribing General Physician and the clinical care team, the referral is either emailed to the SWEP team at swep@bhs.org.au or faxed to SWEP on 5333 8111.

How does my patient get the oxygen equipment?

Once the completed referral has been received by SWEP and patient eligibility for this program confirmed, SWEP will arrange with their contracted supplier – Supagas to deliver the oxygen package to the patient's home/nominated address and ensure education is provided.

Please note, the option of equipment delivery direct to hospitals is not available through this program.

How long can patients be funded for through this program?

Initial supply is for a period of 30 days post discharge only.

What happens after the 30-day funded period?

The clinical care team at the discharging hospital is required to review their patient within 30 days post discharge to ascertain their ongoing oxygen needs.

SWEP will liaise with the clinical care team to arrange collection of the oxygen equipment from the patient.

Can the supply period be extended?

Should the clinical care team recommend a further short-term extension the supply period can be extended once for a maximum of a further 30 days only.

What if my patient requires supplementary oxygen in the longer term?

Referral should be made to the relevant funding body for supply.

Any patients referred to the State funded Domiciliary Oxygen Program will need to meet TSANZ Position Statement eligibility criteria.