

CARING FOR YOUR HOME VENTILATOR

You have been given a machine to help aid and support your breathing as part of your medical treatment. It is important that you care for this machine and your mask(s) so that it operates efficiently and effectively to ensure that the machine operates well and is less likely to break down or not operate properly.

Listed below are some simple checks that you or your carer can perform ensure that your machine operates well and is less likely to fail.

- 1) **Keep it on a safe and sturdy surface** to prevent breakage or damage to the case or internal working
- 2) **Keep out of reach of children and small animals.**
- 3) **Wipe it down regularly** (at least weekly) with a damp cloth to keep it free of dirt and dust that could clog up the filters and increase the operational demands on the ventilator.
- 4) Ensure humidifiers (if used) are kept lower than the ventilator to stop accidental water spillage onto it.
- 5) If using a humidifier use either cooled boiled water or distilled water in the reservoir (Brita filtered water also acceptable) also ensure water not allowed to boil dry when in use.
- 6) To reduce risk of infection empty water reservoir daily when not in use and dry thoroughly
- 7) **Change filters regularly**- usually when they look soiled (usually look grey rather than white)

ASK YOUR PHYSIO OR RESPIRATORY NURSE WHICH ONES NEED CHANGING BETWEEN SERVICES AND THEIR LOCATION- THE RESPIRATORY CENTRE CAN SEND YOU SUPPLIES AS NEEDED.

- 8) **Attend your yearly review** and bring all equipment with you so that the machine and mask can be checked and serviced.
- 9) **Wipe masks** when visibly dirty or soiled - avoid using detergent, which may irritate your skin.
- 10) Avoided pulling the mask off without first undoing or loosening the straps to prevent damage to the straps or the mask.

If you have any problems or concerns please identify them early and contact the centre On 023 80794325 so that appropriate replacement can be arranged if necessary

Thank you for your help

The Respiratory Centre