

Concurrent oxygen and emollient use

Oxygen safety information for patients

Always read the information that comes with the equipment. The oxygen supplier can also provide further advice on general oxygen safety.

- Do not smoke or allow others to smoke near you.
- Do not use or store oxygen near naked flames such as candles, gas hobs, gas or open fires or similar. Check the information that came with the equipment for recommended distances from heat sources.
- Do switch off the oxygen when not in use.
- Do make sure that the room is well ventilated.

Additional safety advice when using cream/ointments with oxygen.

- Do not use cream/ointments underneath an oxygen mask or around the nasal cannula or on areas of the skin in contact with oxygen including your hands. Use a water-based lubricant.
- If you do need to use a cream or ointment on other areas use the minimum possible and rub in well.
- Do not use oil-based make-up.
- Do not handle oxygen equipment with greasy hands. Wash hands thoroughly before handling oxygen.
- Do not allow any oxygen equipment or oxygen including mask or nasal cannula to come into contact with the cream/ointment.
- Do not use cream/ointments to lubricate oxygen equipment. Only ever use products specifically provided or advised by the oxygen company on oxygen equipment.
- Do wash bedding and clothes regularly to reduce the build-up of cream/ointment.
- Wash at the highest temperature that the material will allow. For example, wash bedding at 60°C.
- Do protect soft furnishing from contact with creams and ointments.

For more information on emollients, creams, oils and grease based products and oxygen use refer to your BOC Home Oxygen Handbook, this is also available online www.bochomeoxygen.co.uk