

Testing

Arterial blood gas (ABG) at or below 55 mmHg or pulse oximetry at or below 88%

- a. **At Rest** (awake) while breathing room air; or
- b. **Exercise** - all 3 values must be addressed in same test session
 1. At rest - if test is above 88% then test at exercise
 2. During Exercise – requires a series of 3 tests done during a single session
 - At rest, off oxygen – showing a non-qualifying result
 - Exercising, off oxygen – showing a qualifying result
 - Exercising, on oxygen – testing while exercising with oxygen therapy to show improvement.
- c. **Nocturnal** - Overnight sleep oximetry (See next page for additional information.)

Oximetry reading or ABG reading within 2 days of discharge from the hospital.

Chart Notes

1. Practitioner has ordered and evaluated the results of a qualifying blood gas or pulse oximetry test performed at the time of need; and
2. Must document oxygen will improve the patient's condition.
3. If portability is being ordered, chart notes must indicate the patient is mobile within the home.

If patient only qualifies nocturnally, portability would not be covered.

Prescription (must contain):

- Detailed description of items being ordered, i.e., stationary/portability
- Liter flow, frequency, and route of administration
- Diagnosis pertaining to the need for the oxygen

Portability with conserving device – order must indicate an evaluation for conserving device and at what percentage of O₂ patient must be maintained during testing, in addition to the conserving device itself.

This criteria is based off of Group I qualifications.

For additional qualifications and information, see the back of this page.

Four Qualifying Oxygen Testing Groups

Group	ABG (mm Hg)	Oximetry (% Sat)	Notes
Group I	≤ 55	≤ 88	N/A
Group II	56 - 59	89	Plus, additional signs and symptoms
Group III	≥ 60	≥ 90	Medical condition with distinct physiologic, cognitive and/or functional symptoms documented in high-quality, peer-reviewed literature to be improved by oxygen therapy, such as cluster headaches (not all inclusive)
Group IV	≥ 60	≥ 90	Does not meet any Group described above. Presumed not reasonable and necessary.

Continued Coverage Criteria by Oxygen Group

Group I No requirement for re-evaluation and retesting. However, practitioners should ensure that oxygen equipment remains reasonable and necessary.

Group II and Group III

- Requires a re-evaluation of a repeat qualifying blood gas or pulse oximetry by the treating practitioner between the 61st and 90th days after initiation of therapy; and
- A new prescription is required by the treating practitioner.

Oxygen coverage is available to patients for treatment of cluster headaches and other acute conditions. Cluster headaches would be included in the Group III criteria.

Oxygen Testing During Sleep

- May be performed in a facility or home. Home overnight oximetry is limited to a stand-alone overnight pulse oximetry. Use the QR Code to obtain additional requirements.
- Cannot use an overnight oximetry performed as part of a home sleep test.
- Overnight oximetry does not include oximetry obtained during polysomnography or other sleep testing for sleep apnea, regardless of the location the testing was performed.

Qualifying oxygen saturation test, in the presence of OSA, may only occur during a titration polysomnographic study (either split night or stand-alone). The PSG is one in which all the following criteria are met:

- The titration is conducted over a minimum of two (2) hours; and
- During titration;
 - The AHI/RDI is reduced to less than or equal to an average of ten (10) events per hour; or
 - If the initial AHI/RDI was less than an average of ten (10) events per hour, the titration demonstrates further reduction in the AHI/RDI; and
- Nocturnal oximetry conducted for the purpose of oxygen therapy and oxygen equipment reimbursement qualification may only be performed after optimal PAP settings have been determined and the patient is using the PAP device at those settings; and
- The nocturnal oximetry conducted during the PSG demonstrates an oxygen saturation of $\leq 88\%$.

