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Monthly Newsletter "Holidays Travel With POC"

November / December

✈ Important Travel Information: Flying with Portable Oxygen Concentrators (POCs)

Hello NaplesPRClub Members,

As many of us enjoy traveling, especially during peak seasons, we want to provide essential information for members who fly with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator (POC).

Traveling with a POC requires adherence to specific FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations and individual airline policies. Planning ahead is key to a stress-free journey!

Key Requirements Checklist for POC Travel

Please use this checklist well in advance of your flight:

I. Pre-Flight Preparation (Start 1-2 Weeks Before Travel)

- 1. Airline Notification: Contact your airline immediately (most require at least 48 hours notice) to inform them you will be traveling with and/or using a POC. They will likely require a specific form to be filled out.
- 2. Physician's Statement: Obtain a completed form or statement from your doctor certifying:
 - Your medical necessity for the POC.
 - The specific required flow rate or liter per minute (LPM) setting.



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- Your ability to understand and respond to the device’s alarms.
- 3. FAA-Approved Model Check: Ensure your specific POC model is on the FAA's approved list. Most modern devices have a certification label on the exterior.
- 4. Battery Calculation (Crucial!): You must carry enough fully charged batteries to power the POC for a minimum of 150% of the maximum expected flight duration. Airlines generally do not guarantee in-seat power.

II. Battery Safety and Packaging

- Spare Batteries **MUST** be in Carry-on Bags **ONLY**. Lithium batteries are strictly prohibited in checked luggage.
- Protect Terminals: To prevent short circuits, individually protect all spare batteries by taping over the terminals, placing them in their original packaging, or using a separate protective pouch or plastic bag for each.

III. Day of Travel and In-Flight Rules

- Arrive Early: Be prepared to meet with an airline agent at check-in to verify your documentation and device.
- Seat Restrictions: You cannot sit in an emergency exit row. You may be required to sit in a window seat to ensure the tubing does not obstruct the aisle.
- Stowage: The POC must be safely stowed during taxi, takeoff, and landing, typically under the seat in front of you.



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- **Unobstructed Operation:** Ensure the air intake vents are clear at all times during use to prevent overheating.

Disclaimer: These are general guidelines. Always contact your specific airline before booking and again before departure to confirm their exact policy, forms, and aircraft-specific restrictions.

Safe travels, and we look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting!

Stay Connected

If you'd like to receive monthly updates, share your experience, or suggest topics for future newsletters, email us at: naplesprclub@gmail.com or on the web at: www.naplesprclub.com

Together, we breathe easier.

Stay informed. Stay involved. We'll be back next month with more information and updates.

Warm Regards,

Naples Pulmonary Rehab Club

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