Safety Precautions
When Using Oxygen in the Home

Your child is being treated with oxygen. Oxygen is given through small tubes placed in the nose (nasal cannula) or by a tube that goes to a tracheostomy. When your child goes home from the hospital, he will get oxygen from an oxygen tank connected to the tubing. He will have a portable oxygen tank, which can be moved around in a carrier with wheels or carried with a strap. You should also have a larger oxygen tank in your home.

Your equipment provider will teach you how to use the oxygen tanks.

- Follow all the safety precautions provided by your equipment provider.
- Post "Oxygen in Use" and "No Smoking" signs throughout your house. (For example, post them on the front door, on your child’s door, above your child’s bed.) These are provided by the equipment supplier.
- Check that working smoke detectors are present throughout your home.
- Notify your local fire department that home oxygen is in use. Tell them the location of the oxygen delivery system in your home.
- Notify the electric company that your child has oxygen and is at high risk for health problems if there is a problem with the electricity.
- Do not allow smoking in your house. Do not allow anyone who is smoking near your child or the oxygen tanks.
- Avoid using aerosol sprays, alcohol, Vaseline®, or other petroleum-based products near the oxygen or on your child.
- Do not have open flames in your home. A spark or flame in an oxygen filled room can cause a fire to spread faster.
- Do not use candles in your home regardless of the room where the oxygen is located.
- Do not use a fireplace when oxygen is in use in your home. If a wood fire is the only means of heating your home, a safety plan needs to be discussed before your child goes home from the hospital.
- Keep electrical or battery powered items, such as CD/tape players, at least 3 feet away from the oxygen.
- Keep the oxygen tanks and your child’s bed at least 5 feet away from radiators or heaters.
- Do not cover equipment with material (curtains, clothes, etc.).
- Avoid exposing the oxygen tanks to extreme temperatures. Keep them away from sunlight and heat.
- Keep the oxygen tanks secured in an upright position in a well ventilated area at all times.
• When traveling with an oxygen tank in the car, secure it in a place so that it can not move. Do not place the oxygen tank in the trunk of the car. Do not use the humidifier when in the car.

• Check the oxygen supply daily.

• Do not completely remove the nasal cannula (if receiving oxygen via a nasal cannula) during breathing treatments unless instructed to do so.

Children need to be closely supervised when oxygen is in use. Some active children may tangle or wrap themselves in the tubing. It may help to tape the tubing to the back of the shirt.

If your child is hospitalized, you may bring your oxygen supply source for travel to and from home. Children's Mercy Hospital (CMH) will not be able to replace your tank. We will be happy to call your home care company, and they can replace it while your child is in the hospital. The other option is for your child to use the wall oxygen or CMH tanks while in the hospital and clinics. Please contact respiratory therapy when you arrive. They can help you with your child’s oxygen supply need.

See "Oxygen by Nasal Cannula" CARE CARD.

**Equipment Provider:** ________________________________

**Equipment Provider’s Phone Number:** (____) _____-__________