

# Use of Bottled Oxygen during Travel on Alaska Airlines

## Policy Changes Going Into Effect

On September 30, 2012, Alaska Airlines discontinued the use of bottled oxygen services in-flight. Individuals who need supplemental therapeutic oxygen during flights will need to use an approved portable oxygen concentrator (POC) for their in-flight oxygen needs.

Alaska Medicaid recipients who require oxygen during their flight and are traveling on Alaska Airlines must coordinate with their current Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier to obtain a service authorization for in-flight use of a POC.

Alaska Airlines advises its passengers that:

*While it is not necessary to provide advance notice that you will be using a portable oxygen concentrator, we strongly recommend 48 hours advance notice. Letting us know in advance will generally result in a smoother trip.*

Only approved POCs may be used on an Alaska Airlines flight; it is the recipient's responsibility to ensure that they have an approved POC for use during travel. If the recipient's POC does not meet Alaska Airline's approval standards, the recipient and provider will need to work with the DME Supplier to obtain an allowed POC prior to requesting medical travel authorization.

Alaska Airlines requires travelers to provide a completed and signed [Physician Consent Form](#). The form must be presented at check-in and must remain with the passenger at all times during travel. Please see the Alaska Airlines website for all required information and documentation, <http://www.alaskaair.com/content/travel-info/policies/specialservices-oxygen.aspx>.

**DME Providers:** To minimize the processing time for service authorizations, all travel oxygen requests will be processed by the Xerox State Healthcare Travel Authorization Unit. The provider responsible for arranging medical travel for the recipient should work with the DME supplier to obtain a copy of the current Certificate of Medical Necessity page 1 (used for the standard authorization for oxygen) and page 2 (filled out by the DME Provider). The procedure code E1392 for the POC will be reviewed and a service authorization determination will be made.

Alaska Medicaid will continue to work with all parties to make this process as seamless as possible to minimize the impact on recipients.



## Questions? Contact us.

If you have questions, please contact the Provider Inquiry Unit at 907.644.6800 or toll-free in Alaska at 800.770.5650.