

# **PULMONARY PROVIDERS GROUP, INC.**

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## **Assessment Criteria for the Home**

### **Policy**

When equipment is delivered and set up, the patient's/client's home will be assessed for potential hazards, and corrective measures will be suggested. Findings and recommendations will be documented in the patient/client record.

### **Procedures**

Following are general home safety issues that may be communicated to the patient/client as needed.

### **Equipment operation**

- Follow the provided instructions for operating the equipment.
- Never reset, bypass, or cover alarms, and be sure alarms are not covered up when the device is carried in a bag.

### **Fire Safety**

- Install smoke detectors in the home. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.
- Identify doors, windows, or alternative exits that may be used in a fire.
- Post the fire department's phone number by each phone.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher and ensure that family members know how to use it.
- Be careful with smoking materials.
- Never use oxygen in the presence of smoking materials or open flames.

### **Electric**

- Use approved surge protectors rather than extension cords when possible.
- Do not stretch electrical cords across walkways where they may present a tripping hazard.
- Arrange furniture so that outlets may be used without an extension cord.
- Do not set furniture on top of electrical cords. The cord could become damaged and create potential fire and shock hazards.
- Do not run electrical cords under carpeting as it may cause a fire.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use a light bulb of the correct type and wattage to avoid overheating and potential fire hazards.
- Keep heaters away from passageways and flammable items (e.g., curtains).

### **Lighting**

- Make sure stairways are clearly lit from top to bottom so that each step is visible.
- Install light switches at the top and bottom of the stairs.
- Keep a flashlight close at hand.
- Motion sensors that activate lighting in outdoor environments may offer safety and security.

### **Floors**

- Remove loose carpeting or throw rugs that slide.
- Secure rugs and runners by attaching double-faced carpet tape or rubber matting to the underside.
- Be sure that handrails run from the top to the bottom of a flight of stairs.
- Make sure there are no bulges in floor coverings.

### **Telephones**

- Phone with lit keypads and large numbers may be recommended.
- Place a phone where it would be accessible in case of an accident where the client/patient is unable to stand.
- Post emergency numbers and the residence address near each phone.

### **Kitchens**

- Do not store non-cooking equipment (e.g., towels, plastic utensils) near the stovetop as it may present a fire or burn hazard.
- Do not let loose-fitting clothing drape over burners when cooking.
- Use rear burners when possible.
- Turn handles on pots and pans in towards the back wall to avoid accidents.

### **Bathrooms**

- Install a nightlight in the bathroom.
- Apply non-slip strips on shower and bathtub floors.
- Avoid water temperatures higher than 120 degrees to avoid scalding.
- Install grab bars to help patients/clients get in and out of the tub and shower.