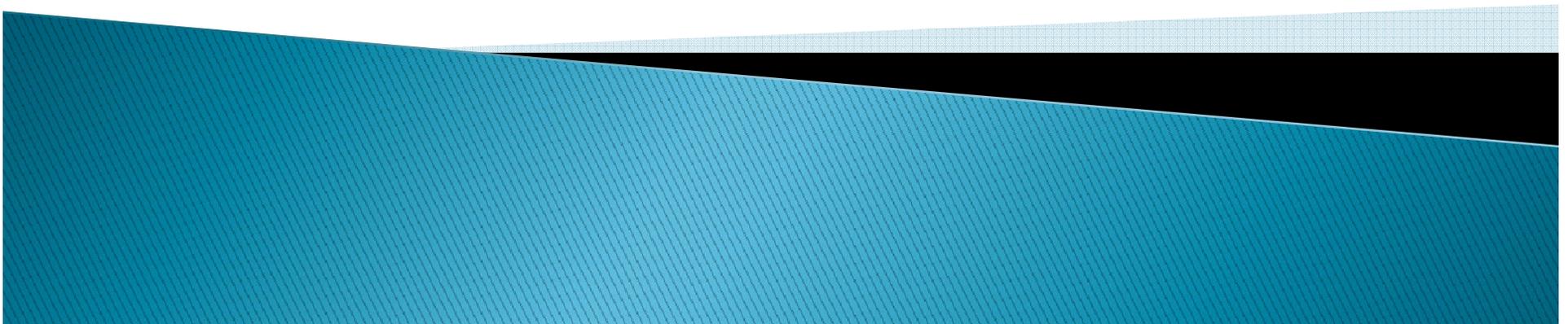


Avoiding Pitfalls during Air Travel

Traveling when you need O2 takes patience and planning

Rhonda Basha, JD

Director, Office of Disability Policy & Outreach TSA



Advance Planning is Essential

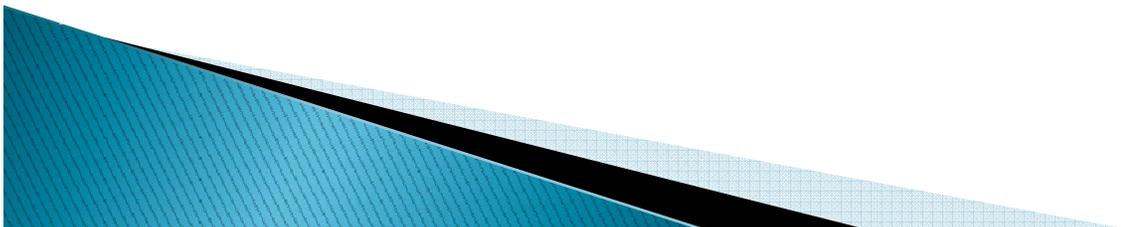
- ▶ Each airline has its own policy for on-board O2 transport and in flight O2 usage
 - You need to contact the individual airline
 - You must carry your prescription
 - Many airlines have their own specific medical form for your Dr. to fill out (generally good for one year)
 - When you make reservation advise your airline that you intend to travel with O2; most require at least 48 hours notice before flight.

Tip: Keep your medications, prescriptions and forms with you while traveling; not in your checked baggage (See caveat re: TSA)



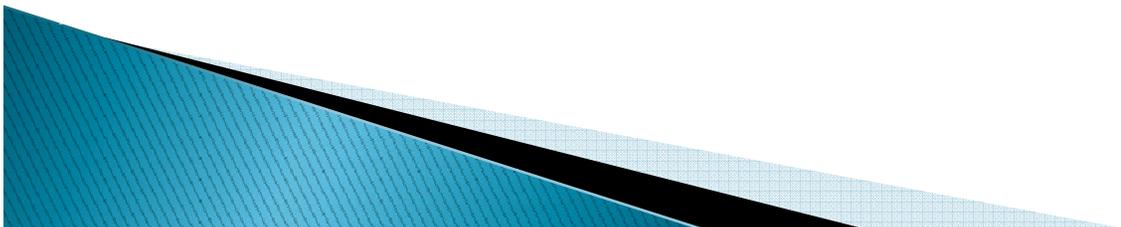
Portable Oxygen Concentrators

- ▶ FAA has approved several POCs for in flight use for passengers requiring O2
 - (E.g., Inogen One, AirSep Lifestyle, AirSep Freestyle, SeQual Eclipse, and Respironics Evergo
 - Can be stowed under the seat in front of you and can be battery powered when not plugged in .
 - FILLED O2 TANKS CANNOT BE CHECKED AS BAGGAGE ON ANY AIRLINE ALTHOUGH SOME WILL ALLOW EMPTY ONES.
 - TIP: You need to check with the airline re: whether they allow empty containers in baggage



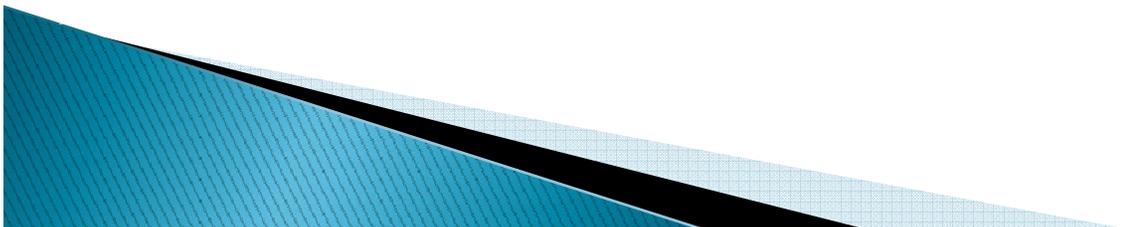
POCs (continued)

- ▶ Once you determined your O2 needs you need to contact your O2 provider to see if they can provide you with a POC approved for travel
 - If they can't, you will need to rent or purchase.
 - You will need sufficient battery power to cover pre, in flight and post-flight time.
 - At check-in you must have battery power for at least 50% longer than your scheduled flight time.
 - Tip: Plan ahead for possible delays!



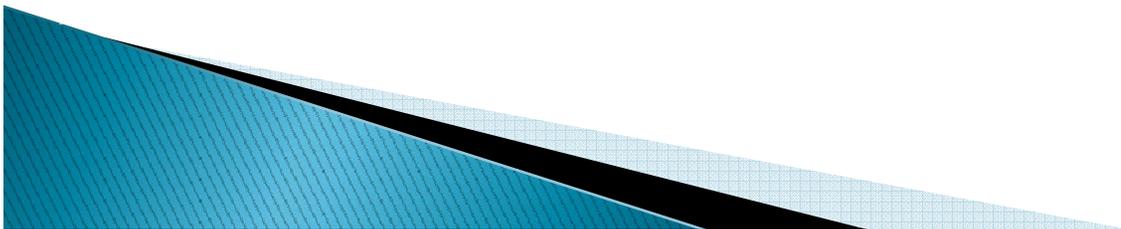
POCs and Airport Security

- ▶ If traveling with an approved POC, it will need to be identified on the POC itself.
- ▶ All can be safely x-rayed.
- ▶ If traveling with an approved POC you will be allowed to take the system to the gate after screening.
- ▶ If it is not an approved POC it will not be permitted onto the airplane and you will need someone to remove it from the airport.



Airport Security–TSA’S Screening Requirements

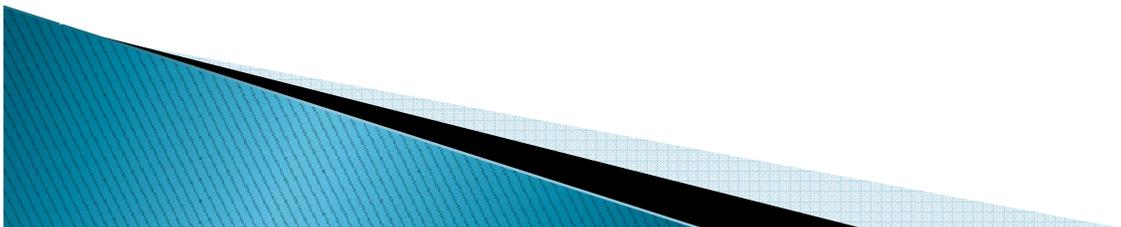
Supplemental personal medical oxygen and other respiratory–related equipment and devices (e.g. nebulizer, respirator) are permitted through the screening checkpoint once they have undergone screening.



Persons Connected to Oxygen:

- ▶ Inform the Security Officer if your oxygen supply or other respiratory-related equipment cannot be safely disconnected.
- ▶ Only you can disconnect yourself to allow for your oxygen canister/system to be X-rayed.
- ▶ If your Doctor has indicated that you cannot be disconnected or if you are concerned, ask the Security Officer for an alternate inspection process while you remain connected to your oxygen source.

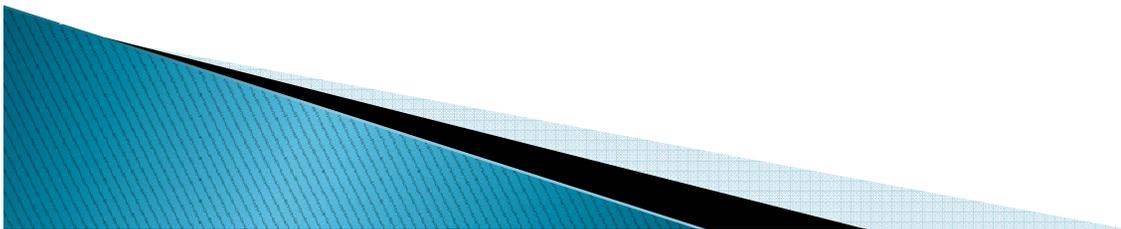
Tip: Oxygen equipment will either undergo X-ray screening (only disconnected oxygen equipment) or physical inspection, and explosive trace detection inspection



Oxygen Suppliers or Persons Carrying Oxygen Supplies:

- ▶ An oxygen supplier or personal assistant may accompany you to the gate or meet you at the gate once they have obtained a valid gate pass or boarding pass from the appropriate aircraft operator.

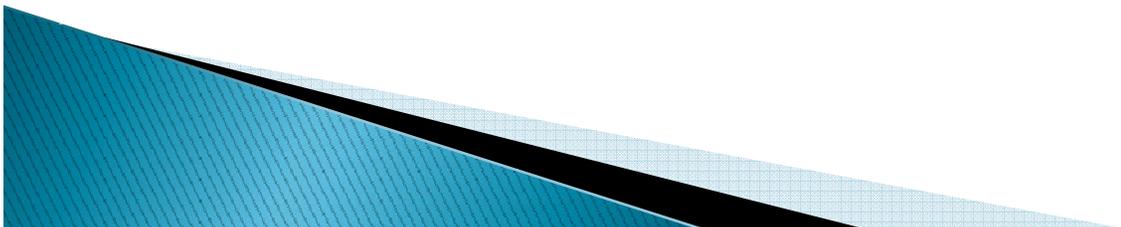
TIP: Oxygen being carried by the supplier or person will either undergo X-ray screening and explosive trace detection sampling.



Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Machines

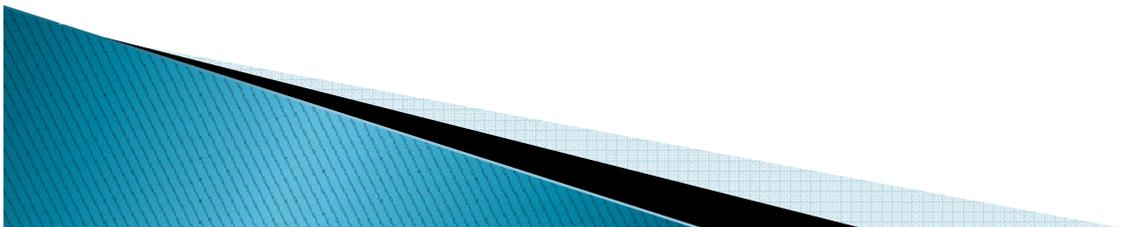
- ▶ Passengers will be required to take their CPAP machine out of its carrying case and place in a bin for x-ray screening.
 - Facemasks and tubing can remain in the carrying case.

******Your CPAP will be subjected to x-ray inspection, a visual and physical inspection, and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) sampling******



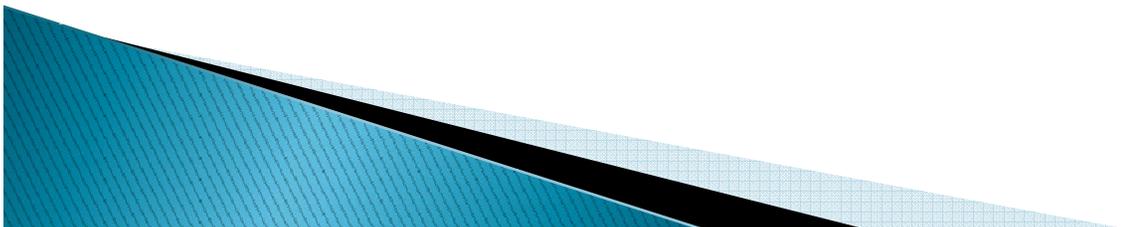
Medications

- ▶ All medications in any form or type are allowed through the security checkpoint once they have been screened.
 - 3-1-1 Rule does not apply.
- ▶ Medication and related supplies are normally X-rayed but can request a visual inspection instead
 - Request must occur before the screening process begins.
 - You will have to separate your medication and associated supplies from your other property in a separate pouch/bag and hand it to the Security Officer.
 - To prevent contamination or damage, you will be asked by the TSO to display, handle, and repack your own medication and associated supplies during the visual inspection process.
- ▶ Any medication and/or associated supplies that cannot be cleared visually must be submitted for X-ray screening. If you refuse, you will not be permitted to carry your medications and related supplies into the sterile area.



Medications

- ▶ Medications need not be labeled, although labels sometimes are helpful.
- ▶ Passengers may present medical documentation that may be helpful during the screening process but it is not required and does not reduce or exempt a passenger from the screening process.

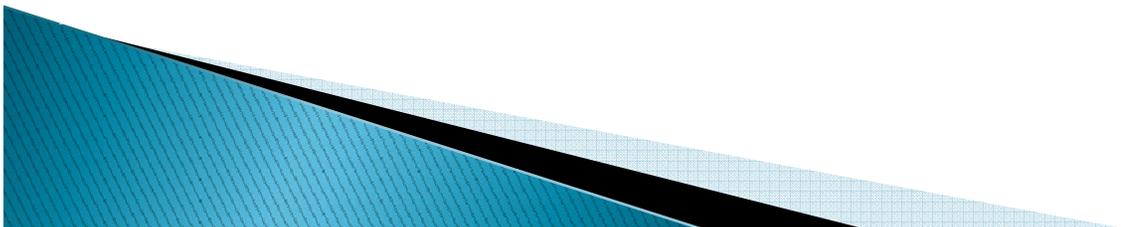


Medications

- ▶ Passengers are encouraged to limit quantities to what is needed for the duration of their itinerary.

TIP : For liquids in amounts greater than 3 oz., you will need to (1) separate these items from the liquids, gels, and aerosols in your quart-size and zip-top bag; (2) declare you have the items to the TSOs at the security checkpoint; and (3) present these items for additional inspection once reaching the x-ray.

****These items are subject to additional screening, which may include liquid sampling ***



Wheelchair Screening Procedures

- ▶ **If you can walk**
 - You can go through the metal detector with or without assistance, or you can choose to undergo a pat-down. You and your wheelchair/scooter will be screened separately .
- ▶ **If you can stand but not walk**
 - You will be escorted to the search area or if requested to the private screening area. You will be asked to stand slightly away from your wheelchair. The screening of your person will include the use of a combination of Hand Held Metal Detector wand, and pat-down procedures, and your wheelchair/scooter will be screened separately.



Wheelchair Screening Procedures

- ▶ **If you can neither walk nor stand**
 - You can remain in your wheelchair but you will be required to undergo a pat-down inspection of your person, which will involve reaching behind, around and underneath you.
- ▶ **Your wheelchair will be inspected thoroughly**
 - It will be physically and visually inspected thoroughly including the seat cushions and any non-removable pouches or fanny packs.
 - It will also be subjected to Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) sampling. Any removable pouches, fanny packs, etc. will be required to undergo x-ray screening.



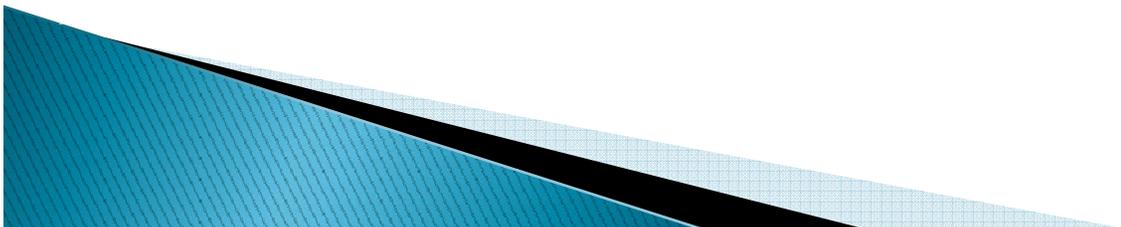
Claims / Areas of Responsibility– The Airlines

- ▶ Moving passengers with disabilities and their wheelchairs to and from the plane is the responsibility of the airlines, not TSA.
- ▶ The decision as to whether to allow someone to enter the sterile area to provide personal assistance to someone with a disability is also within the airlines' purview.
- ▶ Complaints about airline service other than safety or security issues, should be directed to the Department of Transportation's Aviation Consumer Protection Division. <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/problems.htm>.

The Aviation Consumer Protection Division accepts complaints on its web site at the above address or via mail to:

Aviation Consumer Protection Division, C-75
Suite # W96-432 (West Building)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the General Counsel
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

- ▶ You may also call the ACPD 24 hours a day at 202-366-2220 (TTY 202-366-0511) to record your complaint.



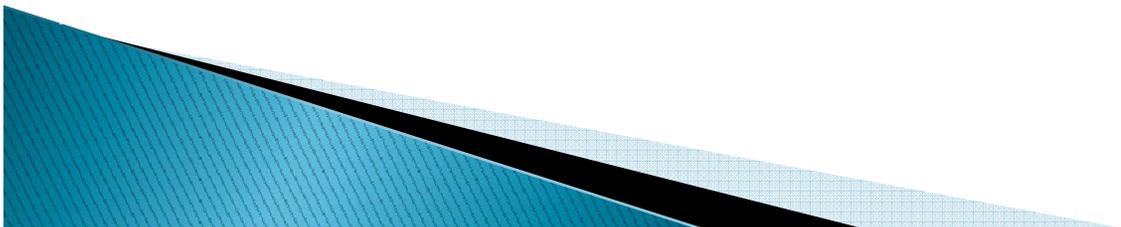
Claims / Areas of Responsibility– TSA

TSA is only responsible for the security screening of supplemental oxygen or respirator-related equipment and medication

- ▶ Should you decide to pursue a claim for **personal or property damage** against TSA, you must complete an SF-95, Claim for Damage, Injury, or Death form and submit it to the Claims Management Office within 2 years.
 - It may be submitted electronically to tsaclaimsoffice@dhs.gov or in hard copy to the address below:

TSA Claims Management Branch
601 South 12th St.
TSA-9
Arlington, VA 20598-6009

The SF-90 form and additional relevant information may be found at:
<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/customer/claims/index.shtm>.



Claims / Areas of Responsibility– TSA

- ▶ Civil Rights Related Complaints
 - Can file a claim with TSA's Contact Center at: TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov.
 - In the alternative, you can also contact the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to file a complaint.
http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial_0373.shtm.

