Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Program – NEW Temporary Home Oxygen Benefit

A guide to using oxygen at home for a short time after leaving hospital.

Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) is a branch of the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Health. It aids people with physical disabilities to live a more active and independent lifestyle. It also helps people in the management of certain chronic health conditions.

SAIL may also pay for up to 1 month of Temporary Home Oxygen if you need it for a short time to leave hospital safely.

Temporary Home Oxygen does not mean you have been approved for ongoing SAIL Home Oxygen coverage.

Why do I need oxygen?

You need oxygen because your body needs it to stay healthy and keep your organs working properly. When you breathe in, oxygen travels into your lungs and passes into your blood. Your blood then carries oxygen to your brain, heart, muscles, and other organs.

Why might I need extra oxygen?

Sometimes, your lungs cannot get enough oxygen into your blood. This can happen because of lung conditions such as COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, pneumonia, or other infections.

Oxygen therapy helps increase the amount of oxygen in your blood when your oxygen levels are too low. Having enough oxygen can help:

- Keep your heart, brain, and other organs working properly.
- Reduce the strain on your heart caused by low oxygen levels.
- Help you stay active when low oxygen is limiting what you can do.
- Prevent complications from having too little oxygen in your blood.

Does needing oxygen mean I will always need it?

Not necessarily. Some people need oxygen for a short time while recovering from an illness, while others need it longer term.

Important: Feeling short of breath does not always mean your oxygen level is low. Oxygen is prescribed to treat low oxygen levels, not simply the feeling of breathlessness.

Who qualifies for the SAIL Temporary Home Oxygen Benefit?

You may qualify for this benefit if you are leaving hospital after a heart or lung illness and need oxygen to go home safely. Your care team must expect that you will only need oxygen for a short time. Your hospital team must apply before you leave hospital. This benefit is not for people who already use oxygen at home or if you have Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) home oxygen.

What is covered?

Your doctor or nurse practitioner will decide when you need oxygen.

- If you need oxygen all day (continuous oxygen), you will get an oxygen concentrator and 10 oxygen tanks.
- If you need oxygen during activity (exertional oxygen), you will get 10 oxygen tanks.
- This benefit DOES NOT pay for night-time only oxygen, portable oxygen concentrators, extra tanks, or extra equipment such as oxygen conserving devices.

What happens before you leave hospital?

Your hospital care team will:

- check how much oxygen you need
- prepare your oxygen prescription and apply for funding
- ask which home oxygen company you want to use
- contact your chosen company to set up your oxygen before you go home
- start arranging a follow-up oxygen test in case you need oxygen for longer than just 1 month

What happens after you go home?

Your home oxygen company will help you with your oxygen needs. After 1 month, you may have another test to check if you still need oxygen. If you do, you must qualify for the regular SAIL Home Oxygen Program and be approved for funding. If you are not approved, you may have to pay for your oxygen.

Your home oxygen plan

My oxygen company: ☐ Careica Health ☐ Medigas ☐ Prairie Oxygen

Temporary funding ends on (1 month after you leave hospital): _____

My next oxygen test-appointment date or contact person: _____

Questions about the NEW Temporary Home Oxygen Benefit?

Call the **Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Program** at:
306-787-7121 or 1-888-787-8996.

Questions about your oxygen?

Call your oxygen company!
Careica Health: 1-855-672-6262
Medigas: 1-866-446-6302
Prairie Oxygen: 1-877-738-8702

Health professionals:

If you want to know more about home oxygen testing benefits in Saskatchewan, visit:
o2.lungsask.ca

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, Temporary Home Oxygen Benefit FAQ (October 2026). This handout explains the benefit. It does not replace the oxygen instructions you receive when you leave hospital.