

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Supplemental oxygen therapy has been a mainstay therapy for chronic respiratory conditions including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis, and interstitial lung diseases for over four decades.¹ During that time, millions of people have experienced improved longevity and enhanced quality of life thanks to the use of supplemental oxygen.

Despite major advances throughout the rest of the healthcare sector in the last 40 years, oxygen therapy continues to rely upon aging technology and delivery. A recent peer-reviewed study found that supplemental oxygen users endure “frequent and varied problems” with their equipment. A significant percentage of new oxygen users feel they are not trained sufficiently in the use of life-sustaining equipment (and some receive no training at all).² Many clinicians also report significant barriers to providing quality oxygen therapy, from a lack of clear prescription writing guidance to difficulties with care coordination to insufficient outcomes measurements.³

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the strain on oxygen supply chains across the globe. In the United States, shortages of portable oxygen concentrators and oxygen tanks have delayed hospital discharges and limited patient mobility.⁴ In other countries, oxygen shortages have affected those needing mechanical ventilation, including premature infants.⁵ In some cases, people have died when hospitals simply ran out of bulk oxygen – an almost incomprehensible notion before 2020.⁶

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The COPD Foundation launched the Oxygen360 program to provide a framework for stakeholders across the oxygen community to unite and foster technological innovation, education and training initiatives, and policy reforms. Initial Oxygen360 efforts have included launching a monthly virtual peer-to-peer training and counseling session, pushing to remove non-FDA-certified oxygen devices from online retailers, and collaborating with the American Thoracic Society (ATS) on the interactive YouAndOxygenTherapy.com website. We will expand these by naming October 2 (“O-2”) to be World Oxygen Day, modeled after our highly successful 2022 World Bronchiectasis Day.

We invite you to join the cause and support this initiative, which will lay the groundwork for additional awareness, policy improvement, and educational activities in the years to come. Each year, organizers from around the world will coordinate activities to help identify gaps in oxygen therapy knowledge and access, promote public understanding of oxygen therapy, and help identify the many undiagnosed people living with hypoxemia.

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

Platinum

- Recognition including logo with backlink to partner home page on World Oxygen Day webpage (logos for higher tiers will be more prominent).
- Ability to announce support of World Oxygen Day and use the World Oxygen Day logo and World Oxygen Day Platinum-level supporter seal (pictured on left) on your website and through social media channels.
- Listing of supporter’s World Oxygen Day plans/events (unbranded) on World Oxygen Day webpage.

- Organization Logo (with backlink) included on dedicated email about World Oxygen Day to COPD Foundation community.
- Recognition as supporter of a virtual educational event (e.g., webinar) on World Oxygen Day.

Gold

- Recognition including logo with back link to partner home page on World Oxygen Day webpage (logos for higher tiers will be more prominent).
- Ability to announce support of World Oxygen Day and use the World Oxygen Day logo and World Oxygen Day Gold-level supporter seal (pictured on left) on website and through social media channels.
- Listing of supporter's World Oxygen Day plans/events (unbranded) on World Oxygen Day webpage.
- Organization Logo (with backlink) included on dedicated email about World Oxygen Day to COPD Foundation community.
- Recognition as supporter of a oxygen blog series highlighting patient stories and providing education for better living.

Silver

- Recognition including logo with back link to partner home page on World Oxygen Day webpage (logos for higher tiers will be more prominent).
- Ability to announce support of World Oxygen Day and use the World Oxygen Day logo and World Oxygen Day Silver-level supporter seal (pictured on left) on website and through social media channels.
- Listing of supporter's World Oxygen Day plans/events (unbranded) on World Oxygen Day webpage.
- Organization Logo (with backlink) included on dedicated email about World Oxygen Day to OxygenandNTM360social community

Bronze

- Recognition including logo with back link to partner home page on World Oxygen Day webpage (logos for higher tiers will be more prominent).
- Ability to announce support of World Oxygen Day and use the World Oxygen Day logo and World Oxygen Day Bronze-level supporter seal (pictured on left) on website and through social media channels.
- Listing of supporter's World Oxygen Day plans/events (unbranded) on World Oxygen Day webpage.

REFERENCES

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