

Uniformity of the European -connecting unit for recharge of the STROLLER (portable oxygen device)

The stroller is a necessary light portable therapeutic device for the erogation of the oxygen.

Such device is commonly used outside the hospital and domestic environments and it allows the people on continuous oxygen therapy not to be always confined in his/her own residence.

This right to the mobility and freedom to move for the daily activities (for business or study or simply for cultural or recreational interests) is strongly limited, because the possibility "to refill" the stroller with oxygen is denied during the hours that they spend outside of their residence.

The problem is not marginal as it concerns around 65,000 Italian patients on long term oxygen therapy, to which it must be added about a large number of European patients, worried about finding a place where to refill their own cylinder of oxygen, "medicine lifesaver", when they need to leave their home or to travel.

Therefore to recognize the basic rights quoted above to these patients, first of all it must be ensured to them the first fundamental right, to allow them "to Breathe."

Today, instead, for this group of population the right "to Breathe" is time-limited (max 6 hours with a flow of 2 liters/min) and, despite the many requests of the patients and their associations presented during last years, the possibility "to refill" is not guaranteed because of the many different type of connectors for the recharge.

While in Europe the uniformity for all the mobile chargers already exists and it is universally possible "to refill" the tank of every car in any area of service or gas station, we don't succeed in conforming a lifesaver therapeutic appliance for this vast number of patients on long term oxygen therapy.

It is necessary in this situation that this missed uniformity of the connecting units for the recharge of the oxygen invests both the home-patient and the ones undergoing a visit in hospital. In fact, neither in hospitals there is the availability to properly connect the stroller for the refilling when the firm contractor of the hospital is different from that of the patient, nor in any Pharmacy on the territory by law.

Thus there is the the urgent need for a new regulation that points out the necessity for the physio-psychological and social comfort of the patients, that the connecting units for the rechargers of the strollers for Oxygen therapy are unified and that all the cylinders of Oxygen have the same identical technical plug.

That is the reason why the Associations of the Patients ask, with urgency, to sustain our application with the European Health Commission, the EFA, and any other European Health Center Program with the aim to summon the manufacturing firms to meet with the patient Associations and the Institutions, in order to face this problem and find ways and tools that result effective to the attainment of our objective.

The achievement of this objective would be in full harmony to the principles related to the guardianship of the rights of the sick, recognizing to people in long term oxygen therapy their rights to a better quality of life.

Following the signatures of the Italian Associations that are supporting and sustaining this action for Patients Health Rights:



RUSSO, ERGO SUM!

Associazione Italiana Pazienti con Apnee del Sonno-ONLUS



Associazione Lodigiana ossigenoterapia riabilitativa - ALOR



Associazione Nazionale Alfa1-AT - Onlus also Coordinating the Request in the Person of Mr.

Mario Ciuffini +39 335 61 82 437, or mario@ciuffini.it, Vice President of the Alfa's Italian Association



Associazione Italiana Pazienti BPCO Onlus



ASSOCIAZIONE RESPIRO VITA OSSIGENOTERAPIA RIABILITATIVA



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