



香港職業治療學會

Address: P.O. Box 98241, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Website: <http://www.hkota.org.hk>

Current Chairperson: Mr. Samuel CHAN, Tel: (852) 2703 2076, Fax: (852) 2334 4658
1/F, Woo Ping Care & Attention Home, 8 Pui Shing Lane, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories, H.K.

c/o: K4, SOPD, Occupational Therapy Department, Princess Margaret Hospital

Tel: [REDACTED]

ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. P.C. LEUNG
MS, MBBS, FRACS,
FRCS(Edin)

Dr. P.S. SHUM
FHKAM(Psy)

Dr. Y.Y. NG
MBBS, FRCP(Glasg)

HON. LEGAL ADVISOR
Mr. Joseph LEE

HON. AUDITOR
Mr. S.Y. LEUNG

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
2016-2018**

Chairperson
Mr. Samuel CHAN

Vice Chairperson
Mr. Simon WONG
Ms. Stella CHENG

Honorary Secretary
Ms. Vivian CHUNG
Ms. Sabrina LI

Honorary Treasurer
Ms. Loretta LIU

**Membership & Public
Relation Secretaries**
Ms. Rebecca CHAN
Ms. Jenny YEUNG

**Continuing Education
Secretaries**
Mr. Maurice WAN
Ms. Konica KWOK

Publication Secretaries
Ms. Janette TAM
Ms. Glenda NG

Publicity Secretary
Mr. Yat HO
Ms. Clara CHAN

Webmasters
Mr. David LAU
Mr. Nico CHING

Chief Editor, HKJOT
Mr. Kenneth FONG

6 December 2017

Dear Chairman and Joint Subcommittee members,

Prohibiting chronic patients from carrying portable oxygen cylinders to travel on public transport

Knowing the captioned issue is scheduled for discussion in coming meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on Long Term Care Policy on 12 December 2017, I am writing on behalf of the Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association to express our concerns.

Since 1980s, home oxygen therapy has become one of the essential treatment modalities for persons with chronic respiratory diseases. Technology advancement has allowed more people in need of oxygen therapy to be cared in the community nowadays. However, chronic hypoxemia and severe breathing problems requiring use of oxygen therapy present a serious challenge in community living.

A campaign was initiated by our Association since 2009 to promote the public awareness on the difficulty in accessing transportation by oxygen users in Hong Kong. After repeated liaison with concerned stakeholders, a proposal was prepared by the Transport Department in 2012 to relax the restrictions in the Public Bus Services Regulations (PBSR) on carrying medical oxygen cylinders for self-use when accessing franchised buses. Only the paper did not reach to the former Legislative Council in time for enacting law amendment putting the situation faced by oxygen users in our community into a deadlock.

As of data in June 2017 provided by major oxygen vendors, there are about 6300 oxygen users, consuming around 75,000 oxygen cylinder refills per year in our community. A territory-wide survey* was conducted again by our Association in July to September 2017 to reassess the concerned situation. 402 questionnaires responded by home oxygen users were successfully completed.



HONG KONG OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

香港職業治療學會

Address: P.O. Box 98241, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Website: <http://www.hkota.org.hk>

Current Chairperson: Mr. Samuel CHAN, Tel: (852) 2703 2076. Fax: (852) 2334 4658
I/F, Woo Ping Care & Attention Home, 8 Pui Shing Lane, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories, H.K.

ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. P.C. LEUNG
MS, MBBS, FRACS,
FRCS(Edin)

Dr. P.S. SHUM
FHKAM(Psy)

Dr. Y.Y. NG
MBBS, FRCP(Glasg)

HON. LEGAL ADVISOR
Mr. Joseph LEE

HON. AUDITOR
Mr. S.Y. LEUNG

EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
2016-2018

Chairperson
Mr. Samuel CHAN

Vice Chairperson
Mr. Simon WONG
Ms. Stella CHENG

Honorary Secretary
Ms. Vivian CHUNG
Ms. Sabrina LI

Honorary Treasurer
Ms. Loreta LIU

Membership & Public
Relation Secretaries
Ms. Rebecca CHAN
Ms. Jenny YEUNG

Continuing Education
Secretaries
Mr. Maurice WAN
Ms. Konica KWOK

Publication Secretaries
Ms. Janette TAM
Ms. Glenda NG

Publicity Secretary
Mr. Yat HO
Ms. Clara CHAN

Webmasters
Mr. David LAU
Mr. Nico CHING

Chief Editor, HKJOT
Mr. Kenneth FONG

Like most ordinary people in the society, oxygen users need to use public transportation to participate various outdoor activities for community living: attending medical follow-up (79.1%), organizing food and meals (38.8%), enjoying leisure activities (31.3%), participating social & spiritual activities (18.6%), looking after families (15.1%) and going to school or work (9.2%). Many of them will choose different public transportation media to go out: franchised bus (54.5%), taxi (45.5%), MTR (26.6%) and public light bus (26.1%). When going outdoor, only 19.9% of them will carry portable oxygen devices at all time, more oxygen users may use them infrequently (24.8%-47.2%), 22.1% of respondents report not using portable oxygen devices at all. The low compliance rate on ambulatory oxygen by oxygen users remains disturbing which also implies significant barriers in using ambulatory oxygen in our community persist.

Barriers for oxygen users to use portable oxygen devices can be induced by personal factors e.g. awkward looking (18.4%), disease factors e.g. impaired physical tolerance (25.6%), equipment factors e.g. oxygen went out quickly (29.8%) and even social factors e.g. inconveniences in physical environment (35.5%), heavy transportation expenses (14%); restrictions in transportation laws (11%). The oxygen users have expressed different appeals to the society in assisting them to overcome the obstacles in daily life: to increase financial support (76.9%), to relax the restrictions by law in carrying medical oxygen cylinders to access public transportation (54.9%), to improve the public transportation facilities (53.7%), to enhance community support resources (46.9%), to promote public education (28.6%) and to improve equipment technology (27.3%).

As listed in 11.13 of "Public Transport Strategy" by Transport and Housing Bureau released in June 2017, the government is planning to initiate discussion with relevant stakeholders and to submit legislative proposal (*to amend the PBSR to relax the restrictions on carrying oxygen cylinders for self-medical use onto franchised buses by passengers on the premise that passengers' safety should continue to be fully protected*) to Legislative Council in the 2017-18 legislative year.



HONG KONG OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

香港職業治療學會

Address: P.O. Box 98241, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Website: <http://www.hkota.org.hk>

Current Chairperson: Mr. Samuel CHAN, Tel: (852) 2703 2076, Fax: (852) 2334 4658
1/F, Woo Ping Care & Attention Home, 8 Pui Shing Lane, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories, H.K.

ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. P.C. LEUNG
MS, MBBS, FRACS,
FRCS(Edin)

Dr. P.S. SHUM
FKAM(Psy)

Dr. Y.Y. NG
MBBS, FRCP(Glasg)

HON. LEGAL ADVISOR
Mr. Joseph LEE

HON. AUDITOR
Mr. S.Y. LEUNG

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**
2016-2018

Chairperson
Mr. Samuel CHAN

Vice Chairperson
Mr. Simon WONG
Ms. Stella CHENG

Honorary Secretary
Ms. Vivian CHUNG
Ms. Sabrina LI

Honorary Treasurer
Ms. Loretta LIU

**Membership & Public
Relation Secretaries**
Ms. Rebecca CHAN
Ms. Jenny YEUNG

**Continuing Education
Secretaries**
Mr. Maurice WAN
Ms. Konica KWOK

Publication Secretaries
Ms. Janette TAM
Ms. Glenda NG

Publicity Secretary
Mr. Yat HO
Ms. Clara CHAN

Webmasters
Mr. David LAU
Mr. Nico CHING

Chief Editor, HKJOT
Mr. Kenneth FONG

Our Association is not only fully supportive to the initiative by the Government on specific law amendment, we would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to the Government for initiating a more comprehensive review to the difficulty faced by chronic respiratory patients in using public transportation for community integration and collaborate different sectors in the society for assisting them to overcome the obstacles in community living. As healthcare professionals, promoting quality of life for patients is our core value, yet the work cannot be achieved simply by medical treatment. For oxygen users, support from the society at large is crucial in facilitating them to go out of home and to function as full members in the society as far as possible. We envision a more inclusive society in near future.

Thank you for your attention. Should you need further information on any content in this letter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Aileen Chu
Special Interest Group in Respiratory Care, HKOTA

*survey report can be retrieved at below link:
https://hkota.org.hk/news_details?pkey=22