



HONG KONG THORACIC SOCIETY (LIMITED)
香港胸肺學會（有限公司）



Hong Kong Lung Foundation Limited
香港胸肺基金會有限公司



CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau
Limited

美國胸肺學院（港澳分會）有限公司

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Chairman
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

立法會CB(2)519/17-18(01)號文件
LC Paper No. CB(2)519/17-18(01)

10th December 2017

Dear Dr Cheung,

Oxygen Cylinders for Self-medical use on Bus and Public Transportations

As professional bodies of respiratory physicians and allied health professionals, we stand firmly to support the Government in amending the Public Bus Service Regulation to relax the restriction on carrying medical oxygen cylinders on franchised buses. We also fully support to extend the relaxation of this restriction to all public transportation vehicles.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a common respiratory disease in Hong Kong. Currently, about 6,300 patients with severe COPD and other respiratory illness are prescribed and using long term oxygen therapy. Most of these patients require oxygen round the clock to alleviate their shortness of breath, prevent development of hypoxia-induced right heart failure, and improve life expectancy.

In a recent survey conducted by our Societies in 2017, about one-quarter of the 188 respondent oxygen users have been using oxygen for more than 5 years. They are by no means “terminal” patients. Like other healthy people they have normal social engagements and will need to travel around with their portable oxygen cylinders.

Maintaining active life style is of paramount importance for these respiratory patients to maintain physical, mental and social well-being. To receive medical treatment, they also need to attend follow-up appointments and rehabilitation programme in regional hospitals. We estimated on a daily basis about 150 patients on oxygen therapy will need to take transportation to hospital to attend various appointments.

Under the current legislation, the choice of an economic public transportation for these patients is very limited. As medical professional bodies, we welcome policies that shall facilitate and provide incentives to these patients to increase their outdoor physical and social activities.

Yours Sincerely,

President
Hong Kong Thoracic Society

Chairman
Hong Kong Lung Foundation

President
CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau

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