

## **Travel within the United States with a Medically Complex Child**

When traveling with a child who has complex medical needs there are many things to get ready before you go.

### **Medical Equipment**

- Be sure to call your Durable Medical Equipment Company (DME) to find out their policies about traveling with your medical equipment. Make a plan with your DME about what you will do if a piece of your equipment becomes damaged or stops working while you are on your trip.
- Airlines do not allow oxygen tanks on board air planes. You may need an additional piece of equipment called an oxygen concentrator if your child uses supplemental oxygen. Call your DME to discuss what will be needed for the trip you are planning. Contact your provider and DME as soon as you begin making travel plans. A prior authorization may be needed which can take several weeks to complete and be approved by insurance.
- Most airplanes do not offer electricity in flight. Any medical devices that are electric will need to run on batteries. You will need to check with Airport Security and the Airline to learn the restrictions on the type or number of batteries you bring.

### **Air Plane Travel**

- Every Airline has different rules regarding what is allowed on the plane. Please call the airline and ask to speak with someone who specializes in helping people travel with medical equipment and medical needs.
- If your child uses supplemental oxygen or has recently discontinued using supplemental oxygen, their oxygen needs might change when flying because of the pressurized atmosphere of the airplane.
- Please call your primary care physician or AFCH Pulmonologist and ask about a High Altitude Simulation Study.
- Passengers are to be in an upright position during take-off and landing. Ahead of time, talk with the Airline, if your child has trouble sitting in an upright position.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recommends that children are secured in a child safety restraint system, such as a car seat approved for car travel. For more information you can visit the FAA website:  
[www.faa.gov/travelers/fly\\_children/](http://www.faa.gov/travelers/fly_children/)

## **Air Port Security**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) creates the rules that must be followed in order to pass Airport Security Checkpoints. This includes medical equipment, medicines, liquids, and medical syringes. The TSA website is [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) and has a link "Disabilities and Medical Conditions". You can contact TSA Cares toll free at 1-855-787-2227 before traveling with questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint.

## **Letter of Medical Necessity for Medicine and Equipment**

Please call the clinic as soon as possible if you will need letters of medical necessity to bring medicine and equipment through security and on the plane in your carry-on luggage. **Please remember, your doctor's letter does not mean that the items you bring will make it through security or on the air plane. You must call the TSA and your Airline to find out what will be allowed.**

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 10/2017 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7666