

# Nasal Cannula

## Technical Bulletin for Hospital Use

Please read and follow the Instructions for Use provided with the products prior to using the nasal cannula.

The Nasal Cannula is used to deliver supplemental oxygen to patients who have a prescription for oxygen therapy. Nasal Cannulas are intended for use in the hospital, home, EMS environments and other medical facilities.

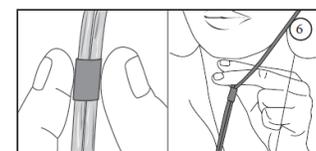
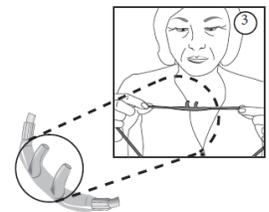
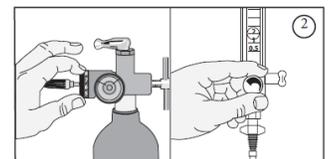
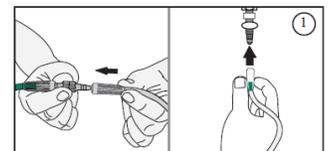
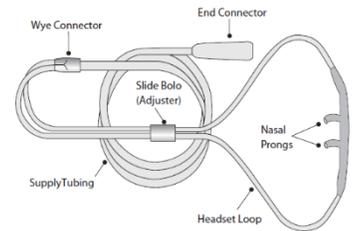
Nasal Cannulas are disposable and for single-patient use. Do not sterilize or reuse.

Nasal cannulas are available:

- In premature, neonatal, infant, toddler, pediatric and adult sizes.
- In different styles, this includes Salter Style prongs, flared prongs, high flow nasal cannula, micro cannula and demand cannulas. The liter flow limitations for each nasal cannula is stated on the product label.
- With soft headset tubing or standard headset tubing.
- With various lengths of supply tubing and end connectors.

### Application

1. Wash hands. Remove the nasal cannula from the package.
2. Attach the end connector to oxygen source, e.g., oxygen extension tubing or oxygen flow outlet (1).
3. Adjust the flow control knob to the prescribed liter flow (2).
4. Check for gas flow from the nasal prongs.
5. Position the nasal cannula with the nasal prongs facing upward and curved toward the face. Insert the two prongs into the nostrils (3).
6. Wrap the headset loop up and over both ears (4). Alternative placement: Secure the headset loop behind the head (5).
7. Squeeze the sides of the bolo (6) and glide the bolo up under the chin or until snug around your head (5).
8. Leave enough space to fit at least two fingers between the bolo and the chin (6).
9. Discard and replace cannula every 14 days or sooner if the nasal cannula becomes soiled or damaged. Do not sterilize.



*Continued on the next page*

# Nasal Cannula Technical Bulletin, continued

## Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Possible Cause	Corrective Action
No oxygen flow from nasal prongs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cannot feel the airflow in your nostrils.</li> <li>2. Flow control valve is not turned on.</li> <li>3. Oxygen system is not functioning properly or oxygen container is empty.</li> <li>4. The nasal cannula is disconnected from oxygen device or supply tubing.</li> <li>5. Nasal cannula or oxygen tubing kinked or blocked.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Check air flow by placing the prongs next to your hand or place the nasal prongs into a small container of clean water. Bubbles will appear if there is oxygen flow.</li> <li>2. Set flow control to prescribed setting.</li> <li>3. Switch to backup oxygen.</li> <li>4. Reconnect oxygen tubing. Ensure all tubing connections are tight and secure.</li> <li>5. Inspect cannula and oxygen tubing for kinks. Ensure tubing is not caught in bed rails or something is placed on top of tubing.</li> </ol>
Moisture in nasal cannula or oxygen supply tubing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Humidifier bottle is overfilled or has tipped over.</li> <li>2. Water trap is full.</li> <li>3. High humidity environment, or sudden drop in temperature.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pour out the excess water. Ensure that the humidifier bottle is upright.</li> <li>2. Empty water trap.</li> <li>3. Consider adding a water trap between nasal cannula and supply tubing.</li> </ol>
Nasal dryness or irritation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gas flow is dry.</li> <li>2. No humidifier is being used.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use normal saline nasal spray or water soluble ointment.</li> <li>2. Add a bubble humidifier to oxygen set up.</li> </ol>
Irritation above the ears	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Headset tubing too tight. Tubing applying pressure against the skin.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loosen the headset tubing. Switch to soft headset tubing.</li> </ol>
Skin rash and/or sores	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sensitivity or reaction to the nasal cannula PVC material.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider switching to a cannula made from a different material, e.g. silicone.</li> </ol>
Discoloration of the cannula	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A chemical reaction caused by exposure to certain lotions, creams, hair dyes or detergents.</li> <li>2. Storage conditions may have been too hot or product on shelf too long.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean the patient's face and replace the cannula. Avoid use of facial creams or lotion if possible.</li> <li>2. Replace nasal cannula.</li> </ol>
Nasal cannula has a strong odor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nasal cannula are typically made from PVC materials, which will have an odor. Some materials have a stronger smell than others.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The smell is usually strongest when removed from package. Run oxygen through tubing a couple of minutes before placing on patient, or try wiping the prongs and headset off with a damp cloth.</li> </ol>

For the most current revision of this technical bulletin and other product technical bulletins, visit Salter Labs website.

[www.Salterlabs.com/resources](http://www.Salterlabs.com/resources)