

The Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act (S.1406 / H.R.2902)

What is supplemental oxygen and how many people use it?

- Supplemental oxygen is a medical treatment that delivers concentrated oxygen to patients with low oxygen levels to reduce shortness of breath and fatigue while improving overall quality of life.
- Supplemental oxygen comes in several modalities, including compressed oxygen tanks, liquid oxygen, and oxygen concentrators, which can be stationary or portable.



At Home Concentrator



Portable Concentrator



Compressed Oxygen

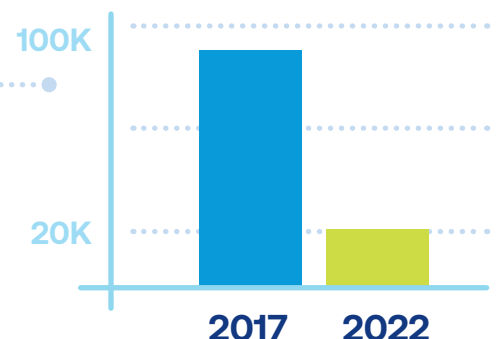


Liquid Oxygen

- Approximately 1.5 million people in the United States rely on supplemental oxygen.

What challenges are patients on Medicare facing in accessing supplemental oxygen?

- Supplemental oxygen is a durable medical equipment (DME) benefit for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Since the implementation of the DME competitive bidding program, claims for all oxygen modalities have dropped significantly despite no changes to respiratory disease patterns.
 - Claims for portable liquid oxygen went from 95,859 in 2017 to 20,341 in 2022
 - Claims for stationary liquid oxygen went from 62,371 to 10,220 in the same time frame
- Medicare patients are struggling to access the oxygen modality and respiratory services that are needed for them to live their fullest possible lives.





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From 2017 to 2022
claims for portable liquid oxygen saw a
79% decline and stationary liquid saw
a 84% decline

What will the SOAR Act do?

The SOAR Act will:

- Ensure that supplemental oxygen is patient-centric and create a patients' bill of rights;
- Enable access to liquid oxygen and other portable modalities for patients for whom it is medically necessary by removing supplemental oxygen from Medicare's competitive bidding program;
- Provide adequate reimbursement for respiratory therapists to ensure that patients have access to their services; and
- Strengthen fraud and abuse protections and ensure program integrity by establishing standardized documentation requirements that rely upon a template and implementing notice requirements for people receiving oxygen or oxygen related equipment, supplies or services.

**Reform of Supplemental Oxygen in Medicare is Urgently Needed:
Please Cosponsor the SOAR Act**