

From Around the Network

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VENTILATORS

LP10 Vent Users: In response to the news that Puritan Bennett will be phasing out support of the LP10 ventilator by 2011, Jerry Daniel says, "We can keep the ones in use running a long time, by servicing them and scrapping a few for certain parts. I service the LP6s and LP10s, and they come out fine." Contact Jerry Daniel at his company, VENTEK, 360-883-4857 or jerry.daniel@comcast.net.

Carina™ home, a multi-mode ventilator from Draeger Medical Inc. is now available in the USA. Compact (15.2"L x 6.9"W x 10.8"H) and weighing 10.8 lbs., the Carina is advertised as quiet (< 29 dBA). Two-hour internal battery and 10-hour external battery. www.draeger.com

Negavent DA3-Plus Pegaso from Dima Italia, S.r.l., an Italian ventilator manufacturer, is a negative pressure ventilator that can be used also as a cough assist unit and chest percussor. It is only available in Europe. www.dimaitalia.com

MASKS

The FlexiFit™ 432 is the new model of Fisher & Paykel Healthcare's Full Face Mask that features a soft foam cushion with contoured silicone seal. Check with your home health care company. www.fphcare.com

Mirage® Swift II™ is the newest nasal pillows model from ResMed Corp. Able to be used with glasses. www.resmed.com

SNAPP X is the latest nasal pillows model from VIASYS Healthcare Inc. www.viasyshealthcare.com

Discontinued. The following masks manufactured by Respirationics, Inc. will no longer be available after June 30, 2007: ComfortLite® 1, Soft Series®, GoldSeal® and Spectrum®. Parts for these products will be available through June 2008. www.respirationics.com

RECALLS

ResMed Corp. is voluntarily recalling its **S8 CPAP units**, due to the potential for the devices to short circuit in the power supply connector. The units involved in this recall were manufactured between July 2004 and May 15, 2006. Part numbers include 33007 (S8 Escape™); 33021 (S8 Elite™); 33030 (S8 Compact™); and 33112 (S8 AutoSet Vantage™). www.resmed.com

REMstar® heated humidifiers manufactured between December 2001 and April 2003 are being voluntarily recalled by Respirationics. Models affected include 1005792, U1005792, R1005792, S1005792, AC1005792, and 1007861. Contact the home health dealer from whom you obtained the humidifier. www.respirationics.com

ACQUISITIONS

Respirationics Inc. acquired the J.H. Emerson Co., manufacturer of the CoughAssist®, the noninvasive alternative to secretion removal, in April. Respirationics had previously been the major distributor of the CoughAssist®. www.respirationics.com

Iceland Offers Attendant Care and Home Ventilators

Gudjon Sigurdsson reports that the Icelandic government will offer home ventilator service in a two-year trial to people with ALS. Similar to the Danish “helpers system,” it enables people with ALS/MND to take an active part in life, rather than force them into living in an institution. If successful, the program will be expanded to all those who need help to live at home.

Sigurdsson, who uses bilevel ventilation at night, writes, “Being with ALS myself for three years now does make me realize that we all die from respiratory failure. No one in Iceland (with ALS) has chosen to go on a respirator until this day. I started looking into it and found out that we had a choice between death and living with a respirator at hospital. To go on respirator at a hospital is not a real choice, so people before me have chosen death. To have home respirator service, we need 24/7 care at home. Government pays for all costs.

“My fight has been education of the professionals to learn about the equipment and the work around it; adoption of the Danish helpers system of five to six individuals/attendants especially trained for this job; and adoption of the Living Will as a legal document in Iceland.”

Contact Gudjon Sigurdsson: gudjon@mnd.is. ▲

Travel with Oxygen

The EverGo™ portable oxygen concentrator from Respironics, Inc. is the latest addition to the oxygen travel market. Weighing less than 10 lbs and with an eight-hour battery life, it has been approved by the FDA and ten commercial airlines. www.respironics.com

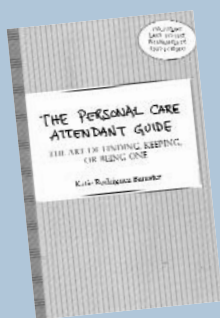
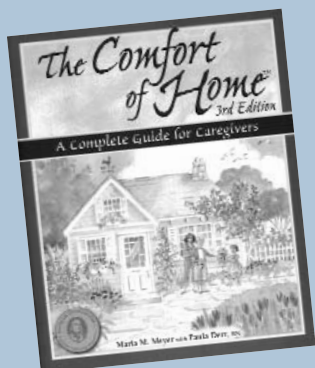
Other portable oxygen concentrators approved for inflight use include SeQual's Equalizer™ (www.sequal.com/Travel_connection.asp); Inogen's One (www.inogen.net/faa); and Airsep's LifeStyle™ (www.airsep.com/medical/airline.html). ▲

New from Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

The Paralysis Community The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC), a program of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (CDRF), created The Paralysis Community – an international online health and wellness community for people living with all forms of paralysis and their caregivers. Located at www.paralysis.org, the Community allows registered members to take part in moderated discussion groups and post personal blogs, enabling them to support one another.

New Website in Spanish A study by the PRC revealed that more than 37% of Hispanics know or have known someone who lives with paralysis, yet almost 56% were not aware of information and resources available to their community. In response, the CDRF unveiled a new comprehensive online resource in Spanish. Check out www.paralisis.org or dial 800-539-7309 and ask to speak with an Information Specialist – available in English or Spanish. ▲

BOOKS



The Comfort of Home,™ A Complete Guide for Caregivers, 3rd Edition (2007)

Maria M. Meyer with Paula Derr, RN
CareTrust Publications (800-565-1533, www.comfortofhome.com)

Maria Meyer, a speaker and workshop leader on caregiver topics, founded CareTrust Publications to provide high-quality, user-friendly information to those with the responsibilities of caring for friends, family or clients.

Paula Derr is a clinical educator for three hospital emergency departments in Portland, Oregon.

Now in its third edition, this fully updated guide continues to provide caregivers with reliable, simple and practical information.

Topics include preparing the home, purchasing equipment and assistive devices, helping with activities of daily living, ensuring proper nutrition. Readers will benefit from the checklists, free or low-cost resources, and tips sprinkled throughout the book.

The 400-page paperback with index, glossary and resources (ISBN 10: 0-9664767-9-4; ISBN 13: 978-0-9664767-9-8) is available in bookstores nationwide, amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com for \$24.95.

The Personal Care Attendant Guide: The Art of Finding, Keeping or Being One (2006)

Katie Rodriguez Banister
Demos Medical Publishing, New York (800-532-8663, www.demosmedpub.com)

Katie Rodriguez Banister survived an auto accident in 1990 that left her a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down. She has lived independently since 1992.

The book teaches readers how to find a competent caregiver and also gives current and prospective attendants the vital information they need to succeed in this demanding work environment. It will equip people with disabilities, as well as their caregivers, with the skills to successfully find, interview, hire, train and supervise their personal attendants.

This 145-page paperback lists for \$16.95 and is available through amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and all major bookstores.▲

2007 Conferences

JUNE 21-23. FSMA Families and Professionals Conference. Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Illinois. www.fsma.org

JUNE 22-24. Noninvasive and Home Mechanical Ventilation: ICU and Beyond. Le Centre Sheraton, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. www.chestnet.org/education/courses/NMHV07/registration.php. See *details on page 10*.

JULY 12-15. Parent Project for Muscular Dystrophy. Lowe's Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. www.parentprojectmd.org

SEPTEMBER 15-19. European Respiratory Society Annual Congress. Stockholm, Sweden. www.ersnet.org

OCTOBER 4-6. ALS/MND Nursing Symposium. Radisson Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. www.lesturnerals.org/educationalactivities.htm#nursing

OCTOBER 20-25. CHEST 2007. American College of Chest Physicians, Chicago, Illinois. www.chestnet.org

DECEMBER 1-4. 53rd International Respiratory Congress of the American Association for Respiratory Care. Orlando, Florida. www.aarc.org