

# Ask The Experts

**QUESTION:** Could your experts please clarify who establishes the settings on a ventilator for a person with a neuromuscular condition?

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In the United States, the physician is supposed to write the order for the settings, but there is the option of writing an open-ended order with setting ranges. This is for companies like ours who have knowledgeable RTs who work with the patients to achieve both comfort and effectiveness. We inform the prescribing physician what the settings are after we set them. Some companies will ONLY accept orders with specific settings. This is very problematic for the proper care of the patients. The physicians are only making educated guesses. The patients' conditions change so the settings need to be adjusted, especially in patients with progressive neuromuscular disorders such as ALS. ▲

*Are you a ventilator user or health professional with a question about home mechanical ventilation?*

Send it to [info@ventusers.org](mailto:info@ventusers.org), and IVUN will find experts to answer it.

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR THROUGH DECEMBER 2012

**MAY 10-12. Spring FOCUS on Respiratory Care, Sleep Medicine and Critical Care Nursing Conference.**  
Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. [www.foocus.com](http://www.foocus.com)

**MAY 18-23. American Thoracic Society International Conference.** San Francisco, California.  
[www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org)

**JUNE 21-24. FSMA Family and Professionals Annual Conference.** Bloomington, Minnesota.  
[www.fsma.org](http://www.fsma.org)

**JUNE 28-JULY 1. Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy 2012 Connect Conference.**  
Harbor Beach Marriott, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. [www.parentprojectmd.org](http://www.parentprojectmd.org)

**SEPTEMBER 1-5. European Respiratory Society Annual Congress.** Vienna, Austria.  
[www.ersnet.org](http://www.ersnet.org)

**OCTOBER 3-5. Fall FOCUS on Respiratory Care, Sleep Medicine, and Critical Care Nursing Conference.**  
Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. [www.foocus.com](http://www.foocus.com)

**OCTOBER 15-18. Medtrade: Connecting the HME Industry.** Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia. [www.medtrade.com](http://www.medtrade.com)

**OCTOBER 20-25. CHEST, American College of Chest Physicians Annual Conference.**  
Atlanta, Georgia. [www.chestnet.org](http://www.chestnet.org)

**NOVEMBER 10-13. AARC International Respiratory Congress.** New Orleans, Louisiana.  
[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

**DECEMBER 1-7. International Symposium on ALS/MND.** Sheraton Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.  
International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations. [www.alsmndalliance.org](http://www.alsmndalliance.org).  
Hosted by Les Turner ALS Foundation, [www.lesturnerals.org](http://www.lesturnerals.org) ▲