

International Ventilator Users Network's mission is to enhance the lives and independence of home mechanical ventilator users and polio survivors through education, advocacy, research and networking.

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Inside this issue

Traveling with a Ventilator Can Be an Adventure p. 1

From Around the Network p. 2

Ask The Experts p. 4

VACC Camp is "Paradise" for Kids p. 6

Meet Our Supporters p. 8

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Special thanks ...
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From Around the Network

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New Products

Quattro™FX is ResMed's latest full face mask model. The mask's contoured headgear design and flexible frame insures a good seal. The fitting process and sizing tool simplifies the initial mask adjustment. Available in three sizes. www.resmed.com



Puritan Bennett™ 520 is new from Covidien, designed for partial use during the day or night. An automatic flow trigger eases the work of breathing, and the unit's automatic valve detection reduces the risk of inappropriate setting selection. Lightweight (4.5 kg, 9.9 lbs.) and compact, the unit has an internal Li-ion battery that lasts up to five hours. Insight software can provide up to 12 months of user data easily downloaded to the clinician's computer. Available only in Europe. www.covidien.com



Flight 60® is a new lightweight and compact ventilator manufactured by Flight Medical in Israel. Suitable for use with children (over 10 kg, 22 lbs.), Flight 60 offers a range of modes, a touch-screen monitor and data downloads. It has an internal battery that can provide up to 12 hours of use, as well as the "hot swap" battery capability. It has received both the CE mark and FDA approval. www.flight-medical.com Flight 60 is available in the western USA through SRC Medical in Northridge, California, www.src-medical.com, and in the eastern USA through Martab Medical, Mahwah, New Jersey, www.martab.com.



Respiratory Therapy Model

"Optimizing Respiratory Therapy Services: A continuum from hospital to home" is the 110-page final report from the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario, Canada. The report details a respiratory therapy model that was developed for use in transitioning patients with complex respiratory needs from critical care into the community. Thirty patients were successfully moved back into their communities. A training manual on CD-ROM is also available. www.crto.on.ca/pdf/ProfPractice/HFO_Final_Report.pdf

ALS, MND, and DMD

"Respiratory Care Update," a presentation by Lisa Wolfe, MD, FCCP, at the 2010 ALS/MND Nursing Mini-Symposium in December in Orlando, is now available online. Dr. Wolfe is in the department of Pulmonary and Critical Care, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. She discusses diaphragm muscle strength, airway clearance, ▶

Traveling with a Ventilator Can Be an Adventure

continued from page 1

I thought that the alarm was not quite loud enough in certain settings, such as a concert or loud casino. After getting home from vacation, I got another Trilogy for my bedside and noticed that this alarm was noticeably louder than the Trilogy on my chair. I am not sure what accounts for the discrepancy, but in the future I will just use the bedside unit on my chair.

Since I use a Passy-Muir speaking valve during the day but not at night, I noticed a difference in the trigger sensitivity when I was not using the Passy-Muir. Therefore, I had to adjust settings at night which was easy enough to do, since there is a dual setting on the Trilogy, and it's very easy to switch back and forth between two different settings, called Primary and Secondary.

Lastly, the exhalation valves for the new Trilogy are a bit noisier than the old ventilators. However, the Trilogy itself is quieter, so it is basically a tradeoff: the puff of air that comes



Luber's Trilogy100 ventilator fits under the airline seat.

<http://trilogy100.respirionics.com>

out of the exhalation valves for the Trilogy versus the noise that comes from the back of the PLV.

All in all, the benefits of the new Trilogy far outweigh the few cons. The biggest benefit for me is a consistency in performance, specifically with the trigger sensitivity. Since I have my sensitivity set very low because it is difficult for me to initiate a breath, my old PLV was always auto-cycling at random times throughout the day. With the Trilogy, I have not experienced any of this auto-cycling, and it is very easily triggered.

I am happy to report all thumbs up with the new Trilogy100. For those who travel a great deal, it is definitely the ventilator of choice in my book. ▲

See "Airlines Give Disabled Passengers the Boot," www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/dalw_airline-gives-disabled-passenger-the-boot-1467867.html

noninvasive ventilation and masks, oxygen therapy, travel, tracheostomy invasive ventilation and ethics of discontinuation of ventilation. Go to <https://alsa.webex.com/alsa/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=61334572&rKey=dfd07a2b41b0fd31>. The annual ALS/MND Nursing Symposium sponsored by the Les Turner ALS Foundation is scheduled for October 21-23, 2011, in Chicago. For information, email meetings@lesturnerals.org.

Surveys

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is soliciting feedback from patients and families who use its network of 200 neuromuscular specialty clinics across the United States and in Puerto Rico. MDA wants to hear more about local MDA clinics and clinic visits – both praise and/or suggestions about how

the clinics might be improved. To participate in the survey, go to www.mda.org/clinics/ and click on the box that reads "Tell us about your MDA clinic."

Competitive Bidding's Round One has been completed. The American Association for Homecare is surveying physicians, HME providers, case managers and discharge planners and Medicare beneficiaries about complaints and problems encountered in Round One's competitive bidding process. To access the survey forms, go to www.aahomecare.org and click on "Problems with Competitive Bidding."

Round Two, which will target different metropolitan areas, is expected to begin in the summer of 2011. www.cms.gov/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid/01A1_Announcements_and_Communications.asp ▲