

Checklist: Air Travel with Oxygen



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This checklist supports passengers with rare disease disability and their carers when travelling with oxygen on flights within Australia.

1. Medical Clearance

Confirm if your airline requires a **Medical Clearance Form**.

Ask your doctor to complete and sign the form.

Request a medical clearance letter outlining your condition and equipment needs:

- Ask your doctor about your fitness to fly with oxygen.
- Confirm if you need to travel with a carer or support person.

Submit the form and supporting letter to the airline **at least 72 hours before departure** (or earlier if required).

Carry a copy of the signed form during travel.



2. Airline Communication

Contact the airline at **least 72 hours before departure** to notify them of your oxygen needs and equipment type (or earlier if required).

Confirm whether you'll use a Portable Oxygen Concentrator (POC) or medical oxygen cylinders.

Request written confirmation of approval.



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3. Equipment Requirements

Ensure your device is battery-operated and airline approved.

Check the battery type and watt-hour rating (e.g. lithium-ion under 160Wh).

Bring enough battery power for the entire flight, including delays.



4. Packing and Documentation

Pack oxygen equipment in carry-on if needed during the flight.

Bring spare batteries and charging accessories.

Carry a doctor's letter explaining your condition and oxygen needs.

Include device specifications and safety labels.



5. In-Flight Use

Use oxygen equipment only when permitted by crew.

Inform cabin crew of your equipment and any assistance needed.

Ensure you or your carer can operate the device independently.



6. Post-Arrival Considerations

Retrieve any checked medical equipment promptly after landing.

Check your equipment for damage and report any issues to airline staff.



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*This resource is part of the nationally codesigned **Rare Disease Disability Toolkit** and is accurate at the time of publishing (February 2026). For more information, see the **Navigating Air Travel with Rare Disease Disability guide**. The information provided does not necessarily represent the views of Rare Voices Australia (RVA) or imply endorsement. RVA is not liable for any loss, damage, or consequences arising from the use or misuse of this resource.*

