

Ask The Experts

QUESTION: “I read about new ventilators in *Ventilator-Assisted Living* and would like to get one. I spoke with my current home health care company for durable medical equipment (DME), and they said that if I wanted the Trilogy100 or the Puritan Bennett 540™, I’d have to switch home health care companies because they don’t carry them. How do I find a local home health care company that provides the newer vents? Does it make a difference if I have private insurance or coverage by Medicare or Medicaid?”

ANSWER: First of all, you will need to have a prescription from your physician and agreement from him or her that the new equipment you desire is the best for you.

If you want to get the Trilogy100, call Philips Respironics at 800-345-6443 and ask for Customer Service. Tell them that you would like to find a DME supplier that rents or sells the Trilogy100 in your neighborhood.

You can do the same if you are interested in the Puritan Bennett vent but please be aware that Puritan Bennett products are now sold by their parent company, Covidien Ltd. Call 800-635-5267 to connect with one of the manufacturer’s representatives in the United States.

The health insurance that each supplier accepts varies. Most accept Medicare as the primary insurance carrier. Not all accept Medicaid as the primary carrier but may accept it as the secondary carrier. Private insurance offers a vast array of plans, both in-network and out-of-network.

Check with the supplier to determine your coverage. ▲

Diana Guth, RRT, Owner, Home Respiratory Care, Los Angeles, California, diana@hrsleep.com

Do you have a question about ventilator-assisted living?

Are you a health professional with a question for ventilator users? Send it to info@ventusers.org, and IVUN will find experts to answer it.

From Vent to Diaphragmatic Pacing System: Part I continued from page 5

I was also leery about having only battery power for the DPS. It’s comforting to know I have unlimited vent time when plugged in to a standard outlet, as well as vent batteries that provide about 12-14 hours on a full charge, and charge simply by being

plugged in. However, a friend who has used the DPS essentially 24/7 for more than five years hasn’t had any issues with the batteries.

After thoroughly investigating the system and with the issues resolved in my mind, I decided to proceed in converting from conventional assisted ventilation to the DPS. Stay tuned for Part II. ▲

MORE on www.ventusers.org

Bill Miller
www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/val14-2.html#nob

Diaphragm Pacing System
www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/VAL_24-1p4.pdf
www.ventusers.org/edu/valnews/VAL_20-3p1-3.pdf