

# 'Breathe Well' CoughAssist™ Short Term Loan Program

For people with weak breathing muscles, a CoughAssist™ machine simulates a natural cough and assists the person to clear secretions, including infected secretions. It does so by applying positive air pressure to the airway and then rapidly shifting to negative air pressure. The resulting high expiratory flow simulates a deep, natural cough.

Muscular Dystrophy Queensland offers a short-term rental program of 'Breathe Well' CoughAssist™ machines, to assist with recovery from acute respiratory infections.

You can watch the CoughAssist™ machine being used by a person living in France with Duchenne MD by visiting [www.mdqld.org.au/services/equipment-loans](http://www.mdqld.org.au/services/equipment-loans)



## Loan Availability

Loans are distributed on the basis of need i.e. Muscular Dystrophy Queensland is able to assign CoughAssist™ machines quickly in times of acute need. One or more of the following needs will be identified:

1. The borrower has contracted an acute respiratory infection
2. The CoughAssist™ machine will enable a person to be discharged from hospital
3. This short-term loan will bridge a gap when a person is trying to source funds to purchase a machine

If requests for CoughAssist™ machines exceed available funding, we may prioritise based on:

1. Previous loan history
2. Being an existing client.

## What is included in the loan?

Philips Sleepeasy is the supplier to the loan program and the loan includes:

- The machine (which can be transported to most locations in Queensland)
- The first set of consumables. (Unfortunately, at this stage, we cannot fund ongoing consumables.)
- Education in the use of the machine

It is important for the borrower to continue to liaise with *Philips Sleepeasy* regarding additional consumables and extra circuits which may be needed and available.

## What is the borrowing process?

1. The borrower (or another person) contacts Muscular Dystrophy Queensland to make enquiries about the availability of the loan and Muscular Dystrophy Queensland assesses capacity to make the loan.
2. The borrower completes or obtains the following:
  - Completes Cough Assist program registration and consent forms. (If the person is already a client, this step is not necessary)
  - Completes a signed Loan Agreement form
  - Obtains and submits to Muscular Dystrophy Queensland, a referral form from a registered physiotherapist or physician, listing prescribed pressures/machine settings. (Forms can be obtained from us)

It is only when we have these forms that the loan can be activated.

## Borrower responsibilities

The borrower is responsible for:

1. Taking care of the machine during the loan period
2. Letting their physiotherapist / Philips Sleepeasy know at the end of each month, whether the loan is required for the next month
3. Releasing the machine at the end of the loan period. If the borrower refuses to return the machine and/or keeps it longer than the agreed period without written pre-approval from MDQ, that borrower is responsible for ongoing rental payments. The debt incurred is between Philips Sleepeasy and the borrower.

Muscular Dystrophy Queensland would like to gather evidence about the need for our program as funding is short term. We would also be grateful if the borrower would complete an evaluation form at the end of the loan.

## Points to note

- Availability of loans is dependent upon funds available. Unfortunately, loans will be temporarily suspended if we run out of funds dedicated to the program
- It is important to obtain surveillance of respiratory function from your respiratory physician or other appropriately qualified health professional
- Muscular Dystrophy Queensland merely funds the loan. The borrowing relationship is between Philips and the borrower
- Muscular Dystrophy Queensland can advise on sources of charitable funding for the purchase of cough assist machine
- Muscular Dystrophy Queensland has structured this program in good faith and takes no responsibility for issues that may arise as a result of using the program

## **I live with a condition that is similar to muscular dystrophy. Am I eligible for the program?**

Similar conditions principally include neuromuscular conditions and in addition, any diagnosis where muscle weakness and muscle wasting are involved.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- Charcot Marie Tooth
- myopathies
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Motor Neurone Disease
- Parkinson's disease
- Huntington's disease
- Myasthenia Gravis
- inflammatory muscle diseases
- Guillain Barre Syndrome



## **How is this funded?**

This program was initially funded through fundraising. In 2017, Queensland Health provided a small grant, enabling us to expand the program to other people who may need it. The current funding ends at the end of June 2022 and will seek extension beyond this.

## **Contact us to make an enquiry about the 'Breathe Well' CoughAssist™ Short Term Loan Program**

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