

# Respiratory

## What does this mean?

If someone has respiratory issues, it means that their breathing is impacting their ability to go about their usual routine or sleep at night.

Without proper management, respiratory conditions can have a significant impact on the person's life and in some cases can lead to chronic health conditions, which can impact life span.

## What conditions are a red flag for this?

Any progressive condition, such as but not limited to Multiple Sclerosis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Motor Neuron disease should be assessed for respiratory difficulties.

## NDIS Changes to Respiratory Management:

Respiratory Management now officially falls under the scope of the NDIS. If you identify a participant that has difficulties with breathing or sleeping, they should be directed to a Physiotherapist or Speech Pathologist (that has specialty skills in this area) for an assessment.

The NDIS will now also cover ventilation supports.

## In NSW, they said that ENABLE is still involved, what does this mean?

This just means that you need to utilize a qualified Physiotherapist or Speech Pathologist, who will have to apply via ENABLE for the BiPAP, CPAP, cough assist machine, portable suction and air humidifier.

The clinician will also have to go through the Sleep Specialist or General Practitioner to obtain a referral for the equipment and from there, the clinician will trial, apply and set up the machine once it has been approved.

## How we can help?

At Better Rehab, we have developed a strong partnership with the biggest sleep and respiratory care providers in Australia and New Zealand. All of our Physiotherapists and a select group of our Speech Pathologists are being provided with specialist training to prescribe, set up and assist with the management of respiratory supports (such as BiPAP/CPAP and cough assist machines) for your participants.

We are proud to acknowledge that we are one of the only providers in Australia that have undergone this specialist training to support the respiratory population.

## What you need to do:

If a person reports difficulty with coughing, has a progressive condition (see list above) or reports difficulty sleeping; please make sure you flag this information in your referral.