Atos MedicalWinter 2021

Living Well Laryngectomy Care Newsletter





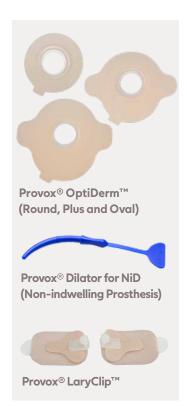
Questions? We are always here to help! Contact your Atos Rep to learn more.

Fulfilling our commitment to you: Easier access to products!

As part of our ongoing commitment to advocate for better access to the products you need with less out-of-pocket costs, Atos Medical is no longer asking for payment at the time of your order on items covered by insurance (some exclusions apply). Instead, we will ship your products now, and you will receive a statement reflecting the balance owed after your insurance has paid their portion. Depending on your insurance company and how quickly they process claims, you will receive this statement 30-90 days after your order.

How does this benefit you? This will help will ensure you have the lowest out-of-pocket expense possible and reduces the likelihood that you would have to wait for reimbursement. This will also reduce the possibility of any delay in getting your products.

Why is Atos making this change? We are dedicated to continuously improve services, and we are excited to bring a better experience to our customers. If you prefer to pay at the time you order, you may still do so, but please keep in mind that the amount of your payment at the time of your order is only an estimate.



A face mask with four strings can be modified to be worn over the stoma.



Atos Medicare Assignment:

Expanding better access to products

As part of our commitment to advocate for better access to products with less out-of-pocket costs, Atos has improved access for Medicare recipients! Provox OptiDerm, Provox LaryClip and Provox Dilator for NiD are now eligible for Medicare Assignment pricing. If you are a Medicare recipient, this means less out-of-pocket cost and better access to the products you need. For a full list of Atos Medicare Assigned Products, visit the **RESOURCES** tab at **www.atosmedical.us** and look for "Maximize Medicare benefits."

oniVox Plus

Product discontinuation:

SoniVox® Plus voice amplifier

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the manufacturer of the SoniVox Plus personal amplifiers has notified Atos Medical that they permanently ceased manufacturing operations and are no longer able to provide the amplifiers.

Affected Products:

- REF# K621: SoniVox Plus Amplifier w/SlimVoice Mic
- REF# K620: SoniVox Plus Amplifier w/ClearVoice Mic

SoniVox Plus amplifiers will continue to be sold while the limited supplies last. Current inventory levels suggest that all amplifiers will be depleted between March-June 2021. Once inventory is depleted, Atos Medical will no longer carry these or any replacement personal amplifiers. Please note that service and warranty work will continue to be available for any amplifiers purchased through Atos Medical.

Tips to help limit risk of illness

It's flu season, and COVID-19 is still with us. Here are some precautions you can take that may reduce your risk of getting sick this winter.

- **Wear a face mask over the stoma.** A face mask with four strings can be modified to fit over the stoma. The strings can be extended with extra strings, so the lower pair of strings can be tied behind the back.
- Wear a face mask over the nose and mouth, and protective glasses. Bacteria and viruses can enter the body through the stoma, but also the mouth, nose and eyes.
- Wear a hands-free HME. For those who use a voice prosthesis, Provox® FreeHands FlexiVoice™ can allow the freedom to speak without touching your HME. Those who use a regular HME should wash their hands before touching their HME.
- If you use an electrolarynx, clean it frequently with damp disinfectant wipes. (Wring out wipes that are very wet before using.)
- **Avoid crowded places.** Try using curbside pickup options for shopping. Consider telehealth visits virtual visits can be a good option for simpler, non-emergent issues like discussing lab results.
- If you have to go out, consider using Provox® Micron HME™. Provox Micron is not only an HME, but also a highly effective electrostatic filter. It is designed to help protect you from 99% bacteria and viruses* as well as dust and pollen.





Resolve to do all you can to improve your lung health

Did you know that 80% of us have given up on our New Year's resolutions by mid-February? If you have not succeeded, why not try, try again? Many of our resolutions tend to be about our health, such as getting more exercise or eating better. Those are good goals, but what about your lung health?

The air becomes colder and drier in the winter as the temperature drops. Indoor heating adds to the increased dryness. This is especially important for laryngectomees as colder drier conditions can lead to more mucus production, coughing, forced expectoration and need for stoma cleaning. Wearing an HME is an important part of pulmonary hygiene that reduces the impact of cold, dry air on the lungs.

Use a heat and moisture exchanger (HME) 24/7. Studies have shown using a Provox HME both day and night is shown to improve pulmonary health and reduce coughing and forced expectorations.* If you are not used to wearing an HME 24/7, it may take some time to get used to it, but the benefits to lung health are worthwhile.

Try different HMEs for different situations. If you are currently using Provox® XtraFlow™ HME during the day, you might try using Provox® XtraMoist™ HME. XtraMoist is designed to retain more moisture than XtraFlow to keep the air you breathe more humid. At night, try using Provox® Luna® when you sleep. Luna provides superior humidification compared to other HMEs.* Luna adhesive is made of hydrogel to help soothe and cool the skin while you sleep.

Did you know that Medicare allows for two HMEs per day? This may allow more flexibility to customize your HME use for different activities and situations.

Take good care of the skin around your stoma. This can be beneficial for maintaining a good seal with your daytime adhesive-especially in winter.

- Avoid using wipes with alcohol as they can further dry the skin.
- Provox® Adhesive Remover may help prevent damage to your skin when removing your daytime adhesive.
- Use Provox® Skin Barrier before applying your daytime adhesive to leave a protective layer on your skin.

NOTE: As always, talk to your clinician about which products are right for you.

NOTE: Provox Luna is meant to be used as a system and is not interchangeable with other Provox products.

Answer key for crossword on page 4



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Atos

Breathing-Speaking-Living

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JUST FOR FUN

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Answer key on page 3

Crossword

DOWN

- 1 Punxsutawney Phil is this kind of creature.
- 2 Get up and __!
- 3 Mom always said, "Don't talk to _____."
- 4 Spring cleaning and taxes are usually done _____.
- 6 This is the largest organ in your body and often needs some extra care in the winter.
- 7 'Pulmonary' describes something relating to, occurring in or affecting these organs.
- 11 He was the 'leader' of The Three Stooges.

ACROSS

- 5 By mid-February, most Americans have given up on their New Year's _____.
- 8 The British Flag is also known as the ____ Jack.
- 9 If you only have one bar on your mobile phone, it indicates the _____ is weak.
- 10 Dorothy said, "There's no place like ____."
- 12 Ali quote, "I am the ____."

