

To GCE Healthcare,

*I was diagnosed with a Genetic form of COPD called Alpha-1 Anti-Trypsin Deficiency almost 18 years ago. Until 14 years ago I was a teacher in a rural Southern Ohio school teaching special education. Since my retirement I have traveled across the United States and overseas advocating for COPD patients. For the past 14 years I have required the use of supplemental for traveling by air.*

*In the early days the only portable oxygen concentrators that were available for me to use were large heavy bulky units that were difficult to transport, especially when short of breath. The development of lightweight portable devices was a true "Godsend". During the course of my travels, I have had the opportunity to use just about every brand of portable concentrator on the market and advised some manufacturers in the development of new products.*

*I have learned that concentrators are not a "one size fits all" proposition. Most generally, pulse dose concentrators are limited in the type of patients that can effectively and safely use them; most often those patients requiring 2 LPM or less during exertion. And while these units might keep a qualifying patient saturated at rest and during mild exertion, they generally did not have enough "headroom" to recover saturations when severely short of breath. Most were only partially responsive to my breath rate and often triggered a burst during exhale which then force me to try and breath with the unit, and I often found myself having to concentrate on adjusting my breathing with the unit rather than the task at hand. When flying I resolved that the best, I could hope to achieve was to have my saturations in the 88-90% range using supplemental oxygen. The result of this was I never felt totally comfortable when flying; that was changed when I tried The Zen-O and Zen-O lite.*

*Recently due to a worsening of my breathing I had come to believe that I would no longer be able to travel, much less fly. I found I had to travel to New York for an important event. I was able to borrow a Zen-O to use for nighttime breathing and decided to carry a smaller portable (another brand) to use on the flight and during activity. During the first of two flights my saturations using the other portable never went above 89% using the device at its highest setting. Getting off the plane I was very short of breath and required a wheelchair to get into the terminal. I was very nervous about the second leg of the trip and after takeoff I was again very short of breath. I switched over to the Zen-O and set it to two pulse. A few minutes later I checked with my pulse-oximeter and my saturations were a solid 95%. That had never happened with any other POC I ever used even before my symptoms worsened. For the first time in many years I felt comfortable flying. After the flight I was able to walk off the plane unassisted and not out of breath. I used the device at night and for the return trip home with the same results.*

*Since that time, I have experimented with the Zen-O's "baby sister" the Zen-O lite. And have gotten the same amazing results. I really love these units and they are true game changers for my mobility and my emotional wellbeing. One of the most remarkable things I have found is that both products are extremely sensitive to my breathing patterns and breathe with me instead of me having to try to breathe with it. Another benefit I found is that since the units can titrate me at far lower settings than other units, I am afforded better battery endurance which means more time out. Both devices also feature user replaceable sieve beds which allows me to easily service the unit at home for a fraction of the cost of sending the unit out to a repair facility.*

*The Zen-O and the Zen-O lite have given me the ability to continue to be productive and enjoy my life and my work. I seldom write testimonials and when I do it is only because the product offers substantial benefit for my community, are reliable and do what they say they will; the Zen-O and Zen-O lite meet these criteria. If you are in the market for a portable concentrator you owe it to yourself to try these units out.*

Sincerely

Bill Clark, COPD Advocate