CLAIMS:

1. A gases humidifier (300) for use in a respiratory gas therapy system (100), comprising:

a humidification chamber adapted to vaporize fluid, the humidification chamber comprising a heater (314) adapted to heat the fluid;

a metering arrangement (320) adapted to transfer fluid from a fluid supply (400) to the humidification chamber; and

a thermally conductive element (318) positioned over the heater,

wherein at least a part of the metering arrangement lies within the gases humidifier, and

wherein the humidification chamber defines a cavity adapted to accept the thermally conductive element, and

characterized in that the thermally conductive element is slideably locatable within the cavity.

2. The gases humidifier of claim 1, wherein at least a part of the metering arrangement lies within the humidification chamber.

3. The gases humidifier of claim 2, wherein only an outlet (320B) of the metering arrangement lies within the humidification chamber.

4. The gases humidifier of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the metering arrangement comprises a pump.

5. The gases humidifier of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the metering arrangement is configured to transfer liquid directly to the thermally conductive element.

6. The gases humidifier of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein an outlet (320B) of the metering arrangement is positioned directly over the thermally conductive element.

7. The gases humidifier of any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising a locking engagement arrangement (500) configured to retain the thermally conductive element within the cavity.

8. The gases humidifier of claim 7, wherein the locking engagement arrangement comprises open and closed positions, and wherein the locking engagement arrangement may be detached from the gases humidifier when in the open position to allow access to the thermally conductive element.

9. The gases humidifier of any one of claims 1 to 8, further comprising:

a gases inlet (202); and

a gases outlet (204);

wherein the humidification chamber is interposed between the gases inlet and the gases outlet, the humidification chamber being adapted to vaporize a liquid such that it is transferred to a gas stream passing through the humidifier from the gases inlet to the gases outlet.

10. The gases humidifier of any one of claims 1 to 9,

wherein the humidification chamber is a removable humidification chamber cartridge; and

wherein to transfer fluid from a fluid supply to the humidification chamber, the metering arrangement is adapted to connect to the fluid supply.

11. The gases humidifier according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the heater is a PCB heater, ECP structure, or combination of PCB and ECP structure.