Claims

1. A mask assembly (2100) for use in providing positive pressure respiratory therapy, comprising:

a mask seal (2104); and

a mask shell (2102),

the mask assembly (2100) configured to be fully positioned lower than a bridge of a nose of a face of a user and to provide an exposed bridge of the nose of the user, the mask seal (2104) being connected to the mask shell (2102), the mask seal (2104) comprising a nasal region (2168) comprising at least one nasal opening (2124), the mask seal (2104) comprising a first paddle (2126) on a first side of the nasal region (2168) and a second paddle (2126) on a second side of the nasal region (2168), the first paddle (2126) configured to contact one side of the nose of the user and the second paddle (2126) configured to contact the other side of the nose of the user,

the mask seal (2104) also comprising an upper front portion (2150) that is positioned above the mask shell and extends in a lateral direction across the front of the mask seal (2104) between the mask shell (2102) and the nasal region (2168) and is located in a front of the mask seal (2104), the upper front portion (2150) having sides that extend into the paddles (2126),

an upper edge of the upper front portion (2150) being curved and the sides of the upper front portion (2150) having a greater height than a central portion of the upper front portion (2150) such that the central portion defines a valley of the upper front portion,

a lower edge of the upper front portion (2150) is generally linear and extends in a lateral direction, having generally the same shape as an upper edge of the mask shell (2102),

wherein the mask seal (2104) comprises an oral region (2166), and the mask shell (2102) is limited to said oral region (2166) of the mask seal (2104).

2. A mask assembly (2100) according to claim 1, the upper front portion (2150) is able to flex, fold or otherwise deform in response to pressure acting on other portions of the mask seal (2104).

3. A mask assembly (2100) according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickness of the upper front portion (2150) is smaller than the thickness of the rest of the mask seal (2104).

4. A mask assembly (2100) according to any of claims 1 and 2, wherein the thickness of the upper front portion (2150) is equal to or among the smallest thickness of the rest of the mask seal (2104).

5. A mask assembly (2100) according to claim 4, wherein the mask seal (2104) further comprises an oral region (2166) and wherein an entirety the upper front portion (2150) has a thickness that is equal to the thickness of one or both of the oral region (2166) and the nasal region (2168).

6. A mask assembly (2100) according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickness of a portion or an entirety the upper front portion (2150) is between about 0.2 mm and about 0.5 mm.

7. A mask assembly (2100) according to any preceding claim, wherein the thickness of the upper front portion (2150) is constant or variable within the upper front portion (2150).

8. A mask assembly (2100) according to any preceding claim, wherein the mask seal (2104) further comprises support structures or supports (2163) for the paddles (2126).

9. An interface assembly comprising the mask assembly (2100) of any preceding claim, wherein the interface assembly further comprises a removably attachable frame (2178).

10. An interface assembly according to claim 9, wherein the mask assembly (2100) is configured to be keyed to the frame (2178) to permit assembly in only the correct orientation.

11. An interface assembly according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the frame (2178) comprises one or more covers (2182) that extend from the frame (2178) and are configured to prevent the mask seal (2104) from expanding outwardly and losing shape when pressurized air is introduced into the mask seal (2104).

12. The interface assembly according to any of claims 9 to 11, further comprising a headgear (2180), the headgear (2180) comprising an upper strap (2260) and a lower strap (2262) on each side of the mask assembly (2100), the headgear (2180) removably connected to the frame (2178).

13. The interface assembly according to any of claims 9 to 12, further comprising a conduit connector (2106) attachable to the mask shell (2102) or frame (2178) and adapted to communicate with an interior space of the mask assembly (2100).

14. The interface assembly according to claim 13, wherein the connector (2106) is connectable to the mask shell (2102) such that the connector (2106) can swivel, pivot or rotate relative to the mask shell (2102) about a single axis or about multiple axes.

15. A mask assembly according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the mask shell (2102) comprises an annular support ring.