CLAIMS

1. A nasal cannula assembly comprising:

a face mount part (110) comprising a base portion (118) and a pair of nasal prongs (111, 112) extending from the base portion (118) and capable of fitting in a user's nares, and wherein the base portion (118) of the face mount part (110) comprises a dipped region between the nasal prongs (111, 112) to extend the base portion (118) away from the user's septum and further alleviate pressure on the septum in use, and

a gases flow manifold part (120) having a gases inlet (122) for receiving a flow of gas from a gas source, and a gases outlet (123) for delivering the flow of gas to the pair of nasal prongs (111, 112) of the face mount part (110),

the gases flow manifold part (120) being adapted to be releasably received by the base portion (118) of the face mount part (110) to fluidly connect the outlet of the gases flow manifold part with the pair of nasal prongs (111, 112) of the face mount part (110),

the face mount part (110) comprises at least one horizontal side entry passage to an interior of the base portion (118) for releasably receiving the gases outlet (123) of the gases flow manifold part (120) therethrough, and

wherein the gases flow manifold part (120) further comprises a groove (124, 125) at the outlet (123) to establish a gap between the base portion (118) of the face mount part (110) and the gases flow manifold part (120) in a region of the base portion (118) configured to locate adjacent a user's philtrum in use to thereby eliminate or at least alleviate pressure on the user's septum from the gases flow manifold part (120) in use, the groove (124, 125) being formed by a pair of opposed recesses on either side of a periphery of the outlet (123).

2. A nasal cannula as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gases flow manifold part (120) is formed from a relatively harder material than the face mount part (110).

3. A nasal cannula as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the gases flow manifold part (120) is formed from a substantially rigid plastics material, such as Polycarbonate, and wherein the face mount part (110) is formed from a soft plastics material, such as Silicone.

4. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the dipped region is complementary to the periphery of the gases outlet (123) to maintain an effective seal between the face mount part (110) and the gases flow manifold part (120).

5. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein, the periphery of the outlet (123) of the gases flow manifold part is adapted to sealably engage an interior of the base portion (118) of the face mount part (110).

6. A nasal cannula as claimed in claim 5, wherein the outlet (123) of the gases flow manifold part (120) comprises a lip extending about the periphery of the outlet and the interior of the base portion (118) comprises a corresponding recess adapted to releasably receive the lip of the outlet (123) of the gases flow manifold part (120).

7. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the face mount part (110) comprises a pair of opposed side entry passages to the interior of the base portion (118), each adapted to releasably receive the gases outlet of the gases flow manifold part (120) therethrough.

8. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the gases flow manifold part (120) is insertable into the face mount part (110) from either one of two opposing horizontal directions, being insertable from either a left side or a right side, such that a position or location of the gases flow manifold part (120) is reversible with respect to the face mount part (110).

9. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the face mount part (110) comprises a pair of wing portions (113, 114), the wing portions (113, 114) extending laterally from either side of the base portion (118).

10. A nasal cannula as claimed in claim 9, wherein a distal end of each of the wing portions (113, 114) is accentuated or formed with a greater contact surface area than a contact surface area of the wing portion (113, 114) in the region adjacent the nasal prongs (111, 112).

11. A nasal cannula as claimed in claim 9, wherein a distal end of the wing portions (113, 114) of the face mount portion are angled relative to a longitudinal axis of the face mount part (110) or the base portion (118) of the face mount part (110), and wherein the distal end of each wing portion (113, 114) extends obtusely away from the base portion (118) or from a region of the respective wing portion (113, 114) adjacent the base portion, and towards the user's respective cheek in use.

12. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein each of the pair of nasal prongs (111, 112) has an elongate scooped opening at the distal end opposing the base portion (118) of the face mount part (110).

13. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein each wing portion (113, 114) comprises an exterior surface adapted to contact a portion of a user's face in use, and an integral elongate ridge extending transversely along the length of the wing portion (113, 114) from an inner side of the face mount part (110) opposing the exterior surface of the wing portion (113, 114) to aid in stabilising the face mount part (110) against the user's face and minimise torsional stress in use, optionally wherein the elongate ridge of each wing portion (113, 114) extends along an upper region of the wing portion (113, 114).

14. A nasal cannula as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein bases of the pair of nasal prongs (111, 112) include curved surfaces to provide for smoother gases flow, optionally the pair of nasal prongs (111, 112) are curved to extend into the user's nares in use and to provide a smooth flow path for gases to flow through.