CLAIMS:

1. A cushion (58) for a respiratory mask, the cushion comprising:

a face contacting portion that contacts a user's face and surrounds the user's nose and/or mouth;

at least one thin region (72) at least partially within the face contacting portion (90), the thin region (72) comprising a conformable or compliant region (72) that is more compliant and flexible than the surrounding or adjacent portions of the cushion (58) such that the thin region (72) stretches and deforms around a tube (54) so as to be adapted to accommodate the placement of the tube (54) between the face contacting portion (90) and a face of a user; wherein:

a) the conformable or compliant region (72) allows the cushion (58) to contact or conform to at least a substantial part of the tube (54) that is not in contact with the user's face;

b) the conformable or compliant region (72) sits largely against and contacts the user's skin when there is no tube (54) present such that the conformable or compliant region (72) seals with the patient's face;

c) a patient-facing or contacting surface of the conformable or compliant region (72) and a patient-facing or contacting surface of the adjacent or surrounding portions of the cushion (58), define a continuous or uninterrupted surface.

2. The cushion (58) of Claim 1, wherein the at least one thin region (72) is located on a lateral side of the face contacting portion (90).

3. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the at least one thin region (72) comprises a thin region on each lateral side of the face contacting portion (90).

4. The cushion (58) of Claim 3, wherein the thin region (72) on one lateral side is a relatively larger thin region and the thin region on the other side is a relatively smaller thin region.

5. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the at least one thin region comprises two or more thin regions on one lateral side of the face contacting portion (90), wherein the two or more thin regions comprise at least one relatively larger thin region and at least one relatively smaller thin region.

6. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the at least one thin region extends in a direction from an inner edge of the face contacting portion toward an outer edge of the face contacting portion (90).

7. The cushion of any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the at least one thin region extends downwardly relative to a horizontal axis of the cushion (58) from an inner end portion to an outer end portion, at an angle of between about 5 degrees and about 45 degrees.

8. The cushion of any one of Claims 1 to 7, further comprising a smooth transition in thickness between the at least one thin region and an adjacent portion of the face contacting portion, wherein the transition is substantially linear.

9. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein a thickness of the at least one thin region is between about 5 percent and about 80 percent, or between about 10 percent and about 30 percent, of a thickness of an adjacent portion of the face contacting portion (90).

10. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein end portions of the at least one thin region are rounded.

11. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 10, wherein an inner end portion of the at least one thin region is spaced outwardly from an inner edge of the face contacting portion (90).

12. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 11, wherein an outer end portion of the at least one thin region is spaced inwardly from an outer edge of the face contacting portion (90).

13. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 12, wherein the tube is a feeding tube.

14. The cushion (58) of any one of Claims 1 to 13, further comprising a visual alignment indicator that indicates a proper location of the tube (54).