

CLAIMS:

1. An interface for use in providing positive pressure respiratory therapy, the interface comprising: a mask assembly comprising:
a mask seal and a mask shell, the mask seal comprising a nasal portion and an oral portion, and one or more features that decouple movement of the nasal portion relative to the oral portion, and
a tether having a first end portion coupled to the nasal portion and a second end portion coupled to the mask shell, wherein the tether is configured to limit movement of the nasal portion relative to the oral portion, and wherein the tether is unitarily formed with the mask seal.
2. The interface of Claim 1, wherein the nasal portion of the mask seal comprises a first paddle, a second paddle, and a nasal region having an upper support surface being positioned between the first paddle and the second paddle such that an upwardly-open valley is defined by the first paddle, the upper support surface and the second paddle, at least a portion of at least one nasal opening being positioned on the upper support surface within the valley.
3. The interface of any one of Claims 1-2, wherein the one or more features that decouple movement comprise an upper wall portion positioned directly above a lower wall portion that are movable toward and away from one another.
4. The interface of Claim 3, wherein the upper wall portion and the lower wall portion are generally linear to define a V-shape in cross-section.
5. The interface of Claim 3, wherein at least one of the upper wall portion and the lower wall portion have a curved shape in cross-section.
6. The interface of any one of Claims 1-2, wherein the one or more features that decouple movement comprise a first wall portion and a second wall portion that are arranged at an angle relative to one another.
7. The interface of Claim 6, wherein the first wall portion and the second wall portion cooperate to define an L-shape in cross-section.

8. The interface of Claim 7, further comprising a curved wall portion between the second wall portion and a portion of the mask wall adjacent the one or more features that decouple movement.
9. The interface of Claim 7, wherein the first wall portion is shaped similarly to a front wall of the nasal portion of the mask assembly.
10. The interface of any one of Claims 1-9, wherein the one of more features that decouple movement extend at least to a transition between a side surface and a user-facing surface of the mask assembly.
11. The interface of Claim 10, wherein the one of more features that decouple movement extend into the user-facing surface of the mask assembly.
12. The interface of Claim 11, wherein the one of more features that decouple movement define an invert point at or near the transition.
13. The interface of Claim 12, wherein the one of more features that decouple movement taper in height and or depth toward the invert point.
14. The interface of any one of Claims 1-13, wherein the one of more features that decouple movement comprise a corrugated arrangement.
15. The interface of any one of Claims 1-14, wherein the one or more features that decouple movement comprise a crease or bellows.
16. The interface of any one of Claims 1 to 15, wherein the tether has a length selected to restrict movement of the nasal portion.
17. The interface of any one of Claims 1 to 16, wherein the tether is rigid.
18. The interface of any one of Claims 1 to 17, wherein the second end of the tether is moveable within a slot in the mask shell.

19. The interface of any one of Claims 1 to 18, wherein the mask shell comprises a central portion, a pair of wings sweeping rearwardly of the central portion, and an opening for a connector formed in the central portion.