



Issue Date: 18th January 2018

SAFETY ALERT NOTICE.

Drug / Product / Device : **Medical Oxygen CD Cylinder**

Identified Issue / Concern / Problem/ Evidence of harm.

Some of our patients require oxygen therapy, and in some circumstances this is delivered using portable cylinders with integral valves. To reduce the risk of fire, the valves are maintained in the off position when the cylinder is not in use. An unintended consequence of this is that staff may believe oxygen is flowing when it is not, and / or may be unable to turn the oxygen flow on in the event of an emergency.

The NHS has identified over 400 incidents regarding oxygen cylinder controls over the past 3 years, and they are associated with 6 patient deaths (All were critically ill and may not have survived in any event).

REF: NHS Improvement; Patient Safety Alert issued 09/01/2018

Actions Required / Risk Treatment strategy

- 1) Ensure that all staff are familiar with the valve and flow meter on each cylinder type used and the safe operation of each.
- 2) Ensure that all staff are familiar with instructions for operation marked on the CD cylinder.
- 3) Ensure all staff are familiar with the instruction in the manufacturers safety data sheet, and in the case of NAS in Safe Work Practice Sheet 13 Oxygen – extract below.

When using CD cylinders prepare and connect the cylinder outside the vehicle or in an open area only.

- 1) Operate in an upright position
- 2) Attach delivery system
- 3) Open the valve first to fully open position with flow regulator at 0L,
- 4) Adjust flow regulator to the desired rate,
- 5) Apply to patient.

When finished, close valve first, then set flow regulator to 0L.



Issued by: Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.