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Safety Notice 004 /10

22 April 2010

Important Changes to Medical Gas Cylinders

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Directors of Clinical Operations

Action required by:

- Directors of Clinical Governance

We recommend you also inform:

- Director of NSW Neonatal and paediatric Emergency Transport Service
- Directors of Anaesthesia & Surgery
- Directors of Biomedical Engineering
- Directors of Emergency Medicine
- Directors of Intensive Care
- Directors of Neonatal/ Paediatric Intensive Care
- Directors of Medical Services
- Directors of Radiology
- Directors of Nursing and Midwifery
- All Medical staff
- All Nurses and Midwives
- All Allied Health Staff
- All Paramedical staff
- All Patient Transport Officers
- All Patient Support staff

Expert Reference Group

Content reviewed by:

- Intensive Care Taskforce
- Rural Critical Care Taskforce
- Paediatric Intensive Care Advisory Group
- Perinatal & Newborn Services Network
- Nursing and Midwifery Office
- Statewide Services Development Branch

Clinical Safety, Quality and Governance Branch

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Website

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs>

Intranet Website

<http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/>**Background**

The Australia and New Zealand Industrial Gas Association (ANZIGA) is coordinating a change-over program for medical oxygen valve outlets and a colour change for all medical gas cylinders across Australia as required by Australian Standards AS 2473.3 & AS 4484.

In NSW, the transition period is expected to be completed over six months commencing in February 2011.

What is changing?**1. Changes to Medical Gas Cylinders**

All medical gas cylinders will be changing to a white cylinder body; the shoulder colours that identify the gas remain unchanged.

2. Medical Oxygen Valve Outlets

Large medical oxygen cylinders will be progressively changed to the new valve outlet that accepts the existing pin indexed oxygen regulator.

Type 10 Valve

Will no longer be used

New Pin Indexed Valve (Key Type)



New Pin Indexed Valve (Toggle type)



During the transition phase cylinders will be coloured white with a letter 'N' on the cylinder shoulder to indicate the 'New' colour scheme. The use of "N" labelling is unrelated to the cylinder contents and will be removed from cylinders when the colour coding transition is completed.

Suggested strategies (cont page 2)

The cylinder product label must always be used to correctly identify the contents of the cylinder.

Suggested Actions by Area Health Services (AHS):

1. Ensure that this safety notice is distributed to all staff involved in the use of medical gas cylinders.
2. Alert staff the use of 'N' on medical gas cylinders indicates 'New' and unrelated to cylinder contents
3. Report any incidents through IIMS.
4. Review local protocols to ensure medical gas cylinder changes are adopted
5. All staff ensure that they identify correct cylinder and valve prior to use of medical gas cylinders.
6. Area AHS' contact medical gas supplier to ensure valve adaptors are obtained in accordance with Information Bulletin 2009_008 Medical Gas Cylinders – Changes.
7. Ensure staff are aware that further information is available via the CIAP website at <http://www.ciap.health.nsw.gov.au> or <http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au>

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What does this mean for you?

- Large medical oxygen cylinders (D, E and G sizes including bundles/packs) will be supplied with a different valve outlet, called a pin indexed valve outlet, and will also be coloured white from a nominated time.
- Please refer to the picture showing this change attached for your information on page 1.
- Users of large medical oxygen cylinders will not be able to connect existing regulators with threaded connections to the new pin indexed valve outlets.
 - Prior to the changeover time, if you use large medical oxygen cylinders (D, E & G size) you will need to arrange for a replacement medical oxygen regulator.
 - Users of medical oxygen with manifold systems will need to have their manifold connections and/or flexible connections changed prior to the change-over date.
 - This valve change **does not** affect small medical oxygen cylinders (C size and smaller) as they are already supplied with the pin indexed valve outlet.

It is recommended you contact your regulator supplier or medical gas supplier for assistance with your requirements as soon as possible.

At the completion of the change-over program

- **Large** medical oxygen cylinders will be fitted with the **same** pin indexed valve outlet that is currently fitted to small C size medical oxygen cylinders.
- **All medical gas** cylinders will be coloured white, with the colour of the cylinder shoulder indicating the type of medical gas.

Suggested strategies for reducing Medical Gas Cylinder Incidents

- Alert staff the use of 'N' on medical gas indicates **New** and is **unrelated to cylinder contents**.
- Review local protocols to ensure medical gas cylinder changes are adopted.
- All staff ensure that they identify correct cylinder and valve prior to use of medical gas cylinders.
- AHS' contact medical gas supplier to ensure valve adaptors are obtained in accordance with Information Bulletin 2009_008 Medical Gas Cylinders – Changes.

References /Other useful information can be found at:

- Information Bulletin 2009_008 Medical Gas Cylinders - Changes **released** 3/03/09
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/ib/2009/1B2009_008.html
- Information Bulletin 2009_039 Colour Change For All Medical Gas Cylinders **released** 1/07/09
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/ib/2009/1B2009_039.html
- Images supplied by the Australian and New Zealand Industrial Gas Association (ANZIGA)