



Safety Notice 014/18

Medical Gas Adaptor

29 October 2018

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Regulation and Compliance Unit

Action required by:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance

We recommend you also inform:

- Directors of Intensive Care
- Directors of Anaesthetics
- Biomedical Engineers
- Hospital Engineers
- Directors of Medical Services
- Directors Nursing and Midwifery

Expert Reference Group

Content reviewed by:

- HealthShare NSW
- Clinical Director Intensive Care
- Office of the Chief Health Officer
- Director Patient Safety

Clinical Excellence Commission

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Email:
CEC-Quality@health.nsw.gov.au

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

Intranet Website
<http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/>

Review date

October 2019

Situation

Safer Care Victoria recently notified a near miss incident involving a faulty medical air “T” adaptor which allowed medical gas to be incorrectly delivered to an infant instead of oxygen. Safer Care Victoria believes that a serious adverse event was averted because staff were alerted by an unusual noise and acted to resolve the issue and mitigate harm.

Background

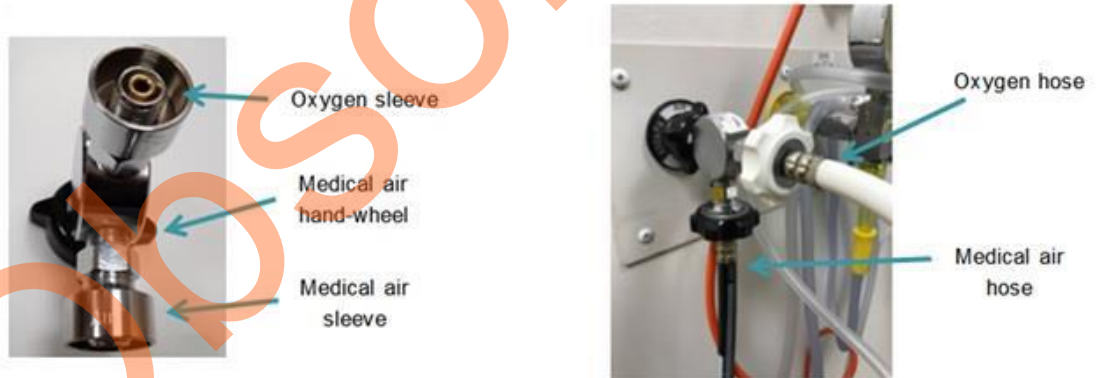
Medical gas adaptors are used to extend the use of a single gas outlet to enable two (or more) gas hoses to be used simultaneously. All adaptors have a colour-coded sleeved indexed inlet hand-wheel (black for medical air and white for oxygen).

The hand-wheel connection colour should always match the colour of all other gases able to be used with the adaptor and the wall supply.

Assessment

Inspection of the medical gas “T” adaptor involved in the above incident demonstrated that there was a manufacturing fault which resulted in both medical air and oxygen gas outlets being present on the one medical air adaptor. This should not occur.

Images of the **faulty medical gas “T” adaptor:**



HealthShare NSW found a similar adaptor to the one described by Safer Care Victoria on the 318A Contract, so there is potential for the same issue to occur in NSW. The product on the 318A Contract is called Oxygen 3 Way “T” Adaptor and is offered by Device Technologies Australia Pty Ltd with a manufacturer name of Gascon Systems.

Recommended actions by Local Health Districts/Networks

1. Request that qualified staff audit all medical gas adaptors in each facility to ensure that all stock is compliant with Australian Standards AS2896-2011 and AS3551-2012
2. Inform of actions taken in response to this Safety Notice to: CEC-recalls@health.nsw.gov.au by COB Friday 9 November 2018
3. Qualified staff to inspect all new adaptors prior to use, and remove/quarantine faulty adaptors
4. Remind staff of the importance of checking that hoses are connected to the correct adaptor and wall supply
5. Report all issues to the [TGA](#) and via the Incident Information Management System (IIMS).