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University Health Board

Standard Operating Procedure for the safe transporting and storing gases in the community

Initiated By	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate
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CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date	Author Job Title	Reasoning
1	June 2024	Christine Harris	New guidance

AUTHORSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY AND REVIEW

Author	Christine Harris	Ratification Date	June 2024
Job Title	Senior Community Midwife	Review Date	June 2027

Disclaimer

When using this document please ensure that the version is the most up to date by checking the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Guidelines on WISDOM

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Procedure Reference Number: 1
Standard Operating Procedure for the safe
transporting and storing gases in the community.

All current and new community staff transporting gas cylinders should be trained in:

- **The potential hazards and dangers of medical gas cylinders.**
- **Safe handling/storage of gas cylinders**

Only cylinders intended for portable use should be transported in their own or CTMUHB vehicles.

All staff transporting gas cylinders in the course of their work, in a vehicle must follow the basic legal requirements.

KEY GUIDANCE FOR THE PROCESS

- Never carry more than 2 portable cylinders at a time.

Avoid risk of fire:

- Never smoke or let anyone else smoke in a vehicle carrying medical gas cylinders.
- Ensure there is good ventilation within the vehicle by opening the window.

Entonox:

- When compressed in a cylinder it becomes a liquid, risk of cold burns if the cylinder leaks.
- Should be stored above 10°C for over 24 hours before use. Nitrous oxide and Oxygen separate if stored below -6°C.

Keep Cylinders secure;

- Cylinders are to be securely stowed, preferably in the luggage area. Use a carry bag or box to keep secure.

- When transporting the cylinders they should be turned off. Ensure the cylinder valve is properly closed, that the tubing is disconnected and that the equipment is carried securely in the cases provided, in the vehicle.
- Cylinders should be removed at the end of a journey. If left for short periods, then keep out of sight.

Driver responsibilities:

- It is the driver's responsibility to ensure their vehicle is safe.
- Whilst transporting the cylinders in a vehicle it is the drivers' responsibility to ensure the cylinders are secure and not at risk of rolling around during the journey.
- There is no requirement to display any hazard warning labels or signs on the vehicle if carrying small quantities of cylinders. But it is advised to display a sign to highlight the carriage of cylinders to the fire brigade in the case of an accident.
- Ensure you have informed your insurance company that you are carrying gas cylinders in the vehicle.

Suspected cylinder leak:

- If driving, stop and park the vehicle as soon as practical in a safe place and turn off the ignition.
- No smoking in the vicinity of the vehicle.
- Check the cylinder valve, if open close immediately if safe to do so.
- Increase ventilation in the vehicle, open doors, windows or luggage area.
- If safe to do so, remove cylinder from the vehicle and place in a safe ventilated location.
- Ensure the vehicle is ventilated before continuing with journey.
- Do not return a leaking cylinder to the vehicle.

Helping the emergency services:

- Inform the emergency services in the event of an incident what you are carrying, quantity, size and location in the vehicle.
- It is recommended to carry a safety data sheet for the product being carried.

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

1. *Move as quickly and as far away from the vehicle as possible.*
2. *Call the fire service and advise that the vehicle contains medical gases (number of cylinders, type of cylinders).*
3. *Location of fire, front or back of vehicle*
4. *Exact location and any potential hazards in the area.*