

Estates and Facilities Notice



Estates and Facilities Notice

SAMPLE

Reference: EFN2302
Issued: 23 Nov 2023

Oxygen Regulator fitted to Medical Air Cylinder

Summary

A bullnose regulator marked for oxygen administration was attached to a medical air cylinder in error and placed on a transfer trolley. The cylinder colour coding and label indicated medical air. A portable ventilator was connected to the oxygen regulator on the medical air cylinder in preparation for a patient requiring oxygen while being transferred. The ventilator's 'low oxygen' alarm sounded to alert staff and the medical air cylinder was replaced with an oxygen cylinder. (Note: some ventilators may not have a 'low oxygen' alarm.)

Within the UK and Ireland, the same type of bullnose connector is used on cylinders of several different medical gas products and lets a regulator marked for administration of a particular medical gas be connected to a cylinder containing a different gas.

Action

1. Review operational procedures / protocols and ensure they require staff to check the medical gas cylinder labelling and colour coding, to confirm that the correct medical gas has been selected, before connecting an appropriate regulator with matching labelling / colour coding, for administration of the selected medical gas.
2. Review training records and ensure that all staff involved in the management and use of medical gas cylinders have received adequate training on operational procedures / protocols relevant to their role.
3. Liaise with your medical gas supplier regarding their programme for changes to cylinder colour coding and valve connectors and develop an action plan to manage the change process within your organisation, which includes staff refresher training incorporating the changes.

Deadlines for action

Actions underway: 01 January 2024
Actions complete: 01 May 2024

Equipment details

Oxygen and Medical Air cylinders with 5/8" BSP bullnose connection (BS 341 Part 3).

