

## National Patient Safety Alert

### Use of oxygen cylinders where patients do not have access to medical gas pipeline systems

#### Identified Safety Issue

NHS England have released a National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA) regarding the use of oxygen cylinders in areas where there is no access to medical gas piped systems.

The alert has identified that during periods of extreme pressure demands on supplies of oxygen cylinders, especially the smaller sizes, increases. This surge in demand increases the known risks associated with oxygen cylinder usage and introduces new risks across three main areas:

- Patient safety
- Fire safety
- Physical safety

As a result of current pressures on the NHS there is a need to ensure that we are following the NHS England Guidance on the 'Safe use of oxygen Cylinders'. As part of this the Trust Medical Committee held an emergency meeting to review the risks and actions that need to be taken.

#### RISKS

1. Overstocking of cylinders in clinical areas presents a risk from both a supply chain perspective as well as a health and safety perspective due to inadequate storage facilities.
2. Expired and empty cylinders not returned in a timely fashion results in delays in replacement and disruption to the supply chain.

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR ALL WARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

1. Ensure smaller CD sized oxygen cylinders are utilised for patient transfer only.
2. All ward and departments to return any empty, expired or surplus cylinders. Please log a request via Unity (CAPMAN) as per the schedule below and place cylinders in an agreed designated collection point so the Portering team can collect. Areas that have not logged a request via Unity on the designated date will receive follow up communication:

**SANDWELL**

Date	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Lyndon 5	Newton 5	Plaster Room	
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Lyndon 4	Newton 5	Priory 4	
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Lyndon 3	Theatres	Priory 3 (Surgical Day Unit)	
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Lyndon 2	Theatres	Priory 2	
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Lyndon 1 (Paediatrics)	ITU	Priory 1	
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Lyndon Ground Paediatrics	Imaging (CT, Ultrasound X-Ray)	UTC	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	AMU	OPD OPD (Surgical Day Unit & Endoscopy)	Old GP area	Accident and Emergency

**CITY**

Date	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Sheldon Block			
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	BMEC,			
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>		Gastroentology	Neurophysiology	Diabetics
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	BTC (Surgical Day Unit)	Theatres		
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Maternity	Imaging		
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Main Spine Ground Floor	Main Spine First Floor		
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	ITU	Accident and Emergency		

3. Respond to the Trust Health and Safety Notice HSN/2023/002: Medical Gas Cylinders  
<https://connect2.swbh.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2302-MEDICAL-GAS-CYLINDERS.docx?x67052>

A subgroup of the Medical Gas Committee will look at the management of cylinders across the organisation, reviewing and updating current policies and procedures for medical gas cylinders and associated training required and developing business continuity plans in the event of a supply shortage.

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