

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: GASES FOR MEDICAL USE/MEDICAL GAS SYSTEM

POLICY NO. 437B

PURPOSE:

To provide availability of medical gases for patient care.

POLICY:

Facilities Management shall maintain gases for medical use at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and component sites.

PROCEDURE:

- Facilities Management shall order, receive, store inventory and keep records of all medical gases in bulk and cylinders.
- Facilities Management shall deliver medical gases to wards and other user areas in a safe and timely manner.
- Medical gases will be administered by qualified patient care providers only.
- Preventive maintenance will occur as required by regulatory agencies.
- Major valves and emergency shut-off controls shall be tagged.
- Installation or repairs shall be performed according to code.

Medical Gas Shut-Off

- Only Clinical Staff, under the direction from a Respiratory Therapist, Nurse Manager, and/or Charge Nurse are authorized to shut off any medical gas valve.
- If it is necessary to shut off oxygen, ensure that all oxygen dependent patients have alternative means of life support including oxygen.
- Oxygen should only be shut off at the zone valve when:
 1. A fire is being fed by oxygen and is becoming large.
 2. The oxygen cannot be shut off at the bedside without endangerment of life.
 3. If an explosion occurs and it is followed by a fire, fire protocol shall be followed to ensure safety.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/24/14

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 02/17

REVIEWED: 02/17

REVIEWED COMMITTEE: Environment of Care Committee

APPROVED BY: _____

Kim McKenzie, RN, MSN, CPHQ
Chief Executive Officer

Anish Mahajan, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Patricia Soltero Sanchez, RN, BSN, MAOM
Interim Chief Nursing Officer

Signature(s) on File.

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- To shut off the Oxygen Zone Valve:
 1. Note the label above or inside the valve box which identifies the rooms that are controlled by that valve.
 2. Remove the valve box cover. Verify the correct valve to be secured.
 3. For those with flat handle valves, grasp handle and rotate ¼ turn; for those with round handle valves, turn handles clockwise until it stops.
 4. If gas shut off is successful by the Clinical Staff; Facilities Management shall be contacted to turn the valve on again. Be sure to identify which valves were turned off.
 5. In the event there is failure to shut off the gas outlet or supply medical gases, notify Facilities Management at Ext. 3301 from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm (Monday to Friday), and the hospital Operator at Ext. 2345 after normal working hours, weekends and holidays, to have the 24 hour maintenance personnel paged.

REFERENCE:

Hospital Policy 411, Utilities Management Plan; Hospital Policy 405, Safety Management Plan; Facilities Management Policy and Procedure Manual; Title 22.