

GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING OF EXTERNALLY CONTAMINATED MEDICAL GAS CYLINDERS/CONTAINERS

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The following guidelines should be adopted for handling Oxygen Cylinders (and related accessories):

- 1.** The cleaning & disinfection procedure should be performed at the hospital in a designated area.
- 2.** For initial cleaning, hot portable water with detergents, not exceeding 50 degree Celsius (50 C) should be used for cleaning cylinders, wheeled cylinder trolley, spanner, keys, regulators and wrench. Valves & inlets should be closed & covered so that the water doesn't get inside the cylinders/containers. Under no circumstances medical gas cylinder/container should be immersed in water.
- 3.** After cleaning the cylinder/accessories with water and soap, the cylinder/container should be cleaned with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution. Fogging is a suitable alternative.
- 4.** While cleaning the cylinder/container, avoid cleaning agents that contain ammonia, amine based compounds or chlorine based compounds as they can cause corrosion of steel or aluminium alloy components or stress cracking of brass, including copper alloy components.
- 5.** In case the used cylinders have not been disinfected, then the cylinders should be kept in an isolated area, with a tag clearly mentioning that the cylinder is infected. The cylinders should be sent to the supplier only after these steps are followed.
- 6.** It is important to note that even hospitals having central supply systems /MGPS may need to rotate cylinders in new areas created for patient care. Therefore, special precautions mentioned as above to be observed when exchanging the cylinders.
- 7.** Personal involved in filling, storing, handling & transporting of Medical Gas Cylinder/Container should be trained in this procedure and should be wearing protective gear at all times as per MoHFW guidelines.

These steps and methods highlighted above is not the last word on precautions which can be taken while handling oxygen supply related equipment during the outbreak of COVID -19. These guidelines would be updated as and when required.