

Patient Safety ALERT: Oxygen Cylinders

There have been several incidents when oxygen has been needed in an emergency and the oxygen cylinder has not been turned on correctly.

The newer oxygen cylinders have two valves that need to be opened before the oxygen will flow:

One is hidden under a grey cap that is removed when the cylinder is first turned on. The second is the one on top where you dial up the number of litres of oxygen required.

It is the first that is not always opened and this has resulted in no oxygen being delivered which has a significant impact on patient care.

Before administering oxygen, ensure both valves are open and it is also advisable, as a final check, to listen to hear that gas is coming out.



Remove seal



Turn wheel anti-clockwise. It will click as it turns on



Pull down grey flap, attach oxygen and select the flow rate (if using the firtree outlet)

