

Patient Safety ALERT : Medical gas cylinders

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved **changes to the appearance of medical gas cylinders**, in order to improve patient safety. The changes are being implemented gradually and benefits include:

- The white body will clearly distinguish a medical gas cylinder from any other non-medical gas cylinder to minimise confusion and the possibility of administering the wrong type of gas to a patient.
- A clear visible product name will make it easier and more convenient for the healthcare professional to identify the correct type of gas. However, it is still recommended that the collar label on the cylinder is also checked for the product name, prior to patient administration.

Changes to medical gas cylinders are demonstrated in the picture below and in the chart sent with this alert.



FOR ACTION:

Ensure that ALL STAFF are aware of these changes when prescribing, dispensing, or administering medical gases.