

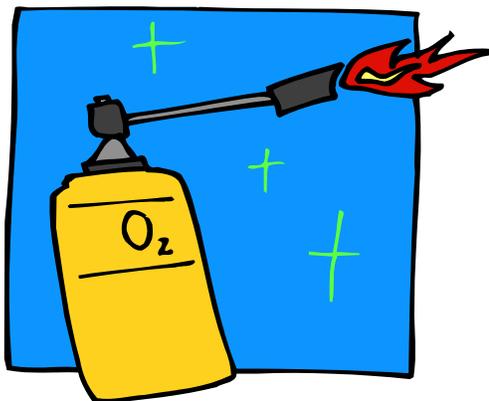
## A BRIEF LOOK AT -

### SAFETY RELATED TO OXYGEN USE



In addition to the Agency's other policies, procedures, and trainings, as well as the information in other "A Brief Look" lessons, safety related to oxygen use includes (in no particular order):

- A "NO SMOKING" sign and/or an "OXYGEN IN USE" sign should be posted. If a patient/client or family member smokes during oxygen use, report this to your Supervisor. Remind visitors not to smoke. Candles should not be used.
- Make sure the oxygen tank is kept away from heat sources that could cause a rise in pressure with a risk of bursting.
- Remove flammable liquids such as oil, grease, nail polish remover, and alcohol from the room where the oxygen tank is kept.
- Remove electrical equipment such as hair dryers and electrical razors from the room as these items may generate sparks which can lead to a fire.
- Keep other electric medical equipment away from the oxygen.
- Check all the electric cords to be sure they are intact and not frayed.
- Wool and synthetic blankets or clothing may cause static electricity and sparks. Have the client use cotton blankets and clothing.
- There should be a working smoke detector in the room.
- There should be a working fire extinguisher in the room.
- Keep medical gas cylinders stored on their sides in a stable, protected area.



Oxygen is not combustible but it enhances the combustion of other substances that are.

The Registered Nurse (RN) will assess the individual's ability to set up, monitor, and change the equipment reliably and safely; add water to the concentrator (if used); and clean/store/dispose of equipment and supplies using proper technique. S/he will determine what tasks need to be done by others. There will be a physician's order for oxygen administration. The nurse will document the use of oxygen in the patient's/client's record including liters per minute, route, and frequency of administration.

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**QUIZ**

1. An "OXYGEN IN USE" sign should be posted.  
 True  
 False
  
2. Candles can be used to provide a relaxing atmosphere for the patient/client.  
 True  
 False
  
3. The patient/client should use cotton blankets and clothing.  
 True  
 False
  
4. The nurse will document the use of oxygen, including the liters per hour.  
 True  
 False

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Signature

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Date

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**ANSWER KEY**

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. TRUE
4. FALSE