

## COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDER & PRESSURE REGULATOR: “Best Practices”

**Compressed gases** such as oxygen, nitrogen and anesthetic gases are essential to providing safe and effective care to patients. **Pressure regulators** are critical to control these highly pressurized gases in a safe manner.



Incorrect use or storage of compressed gas cylinders and pressure regulators can pose potentially serious hazards to staff and patients.

### How do I properly store/transport compressed gas cylinders?

- Store compressed gas cylinders chained, in a rack, or on an approved trolley/truck at ALL times.
- Never transport cylinders with the pressure regulator attached. *Exception:* Pressure regulators on Grab n’ Go oxygen cylinders cannot be removed.
- Store cylinders with safety caps on, if available.
- No more than 12 e-sized cylinders (typical size of patient-use oxygen) can be stored in clinical areas.
- Store cylinders away from excessive heat.



### How do I correctly use compressed gas cylinders and pressure regulators?

- Double-check that you have the appropriate gas AND the appropriate pressure regulator for the job or procedure.
- Visually inspect cylinders for dents or evidence of leaks. If found, contact your manager.
- Visually inspect pressure regulators for damage, such as a cracked plastic dial cover or bent dial. If damage is found, contact Clinical Technology Services (CTS) at **503.418.1587**.
- Never use oil or grease to lubricate the regulator threads.
- Ensure the regulator valve is turned off before opening the tank valve.
- Before removing the pressure regulator, close the tank valve and open the regulator valve to release pressure within the regulator.

All pressure regulators should be removed from the compressed gas cylinder when not in use.

This ensures that each end-user MUST visually inspect the pressure regulator prior to use.

### Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

- Clinical Technology Services (CTS) at 503.418.1587
- Patient Transportation (to request an oxygen cylinder) at 503.494.8656
- Respiratory Therapy at 503.494.7606
- Environmental Health and Radiation Safety at 503.494.7795

