

EC Highlight:

What's in Your Walls?



Your area may have medical gas and suction provided in the wall. These complex systems require area staff to know some basic information:

Medical Gas Alarm Panel - all staff in the area must know the location of the alarm panel and what to do if it goes into alarm:

- Clinical staff should check on patients who might be reliant on the system and provide any necessary clinical intervention.
- Call Public Safety dispatch at 503 494-7744 (Marquam Hill) or CHH Building Management at 503 418-9960 (CHH) to notify them of the alarm.



Medical Gas Shut Off Valves - all staff in the area must know where the medical gas shut off valve is located for that area.

In the event that medical gases need to be shut off, all staff are expected to understand that any actions require two people:

- A senior clinical person (charge nurse or equivalent) to ensure that all patient safety needs are met, such as transferring patients to tank oxygen.
- A Facilities staff member with knowledge of the medical gas system and an understanding of all impacted areas to ensure that every affected area can take actions to protect patients before medical gas is shut off.



NOTE: Alarm panels and shut off valves are marked with the area that they serve. If labels are missing, notify Facilities (Marquam Hill) or Building Management (CHH).

Joint Commission - Environment of Care Standards guide OHSU in this material. The Environment of Care Committee offers this tool to help remind employees of safety polices and best practices.

Questions? 503.494.7795

Please post or share this information with staff.