



HEALTH ESTATES

ESTATE POLICY

**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

**HAZARD
NOTICE**

BACKGROUND

Medical hoses are designed to carry oxygen under pressure from a primary source such as a cylinder or wall mounted terminal to medical devices such as ventilators and anaesthetic machines. These hoses are normally permanently attached to the device and can only be removed by the use of a tool.

NIAIC has been informed that the Medical Devices Agency (MDA) are aware of incidents involving the rupture and ignition of oxygen hoses used beyond the lifetime or use-by date recommended by the manufacturer. Due to heavy wear and tear the risk of rupture is greatest in oxygen hoses used with transport devices.

Although the incidents related to this Hazard Notice only involved oxygen hoses, there is the need for a system to regularly inspect and replace all medical gas hoses.

Many device users and their managers are not aware of manufacturers' instructions to check the hoses and their connectors regularly and the need for hose replacement, usually between 2 and 5 years. The instructions for use of a medical device incorporating an oxygen hose may not mention the care and replacement of the hose. In these cases the hose may have been supplied separately and should have its own instructions for use.

Where recommended, hoses may be manufactured in-house by qualified personnel. These hoses also require care instructions and a system to monitor the replacement of each individual hose.

ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number HN(NI) 2003/05 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US
Marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey

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Email: brian.godfrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Brian Godfrey
NIAIC Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in Safety Notice SN (NI) 2003/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

*Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Aisíneacht Feidhmeannach don Roinn Sláinte, Serbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*