

**From:** nss iric

**Sent:** 16 October 2020 15:47

**Subject:** Information Message IM/2020/027 - Schrader outlet of integral valve oxygen cylinders: problem disengaging the probe and hose of respiratory support devices

## **IRIC Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre**

**Reference:** IM/2020/027

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This information message is sent to draw the attention of NHS Equipment Co-ordinators to information which is relevant to inter- and intra-hospital transfers. Please find the information below

### **Schrader outlet of integral valve oxygen cylinders: problem disengaging the probe and hose of respiratory support devices**

A small number of incidents have been reported in England indicating a potential problem with disengaging the probe and hose of respiratory support devices (mainly ventilators) from the Schrader outlet of integral valve oxygen cylinders. This presents a safety issue for ventilated patients using integral valve oxygen cylinders during inter- and intra-hospital transfers, e.g. if the cylinder needs to be changed and the ventilator tubing can't be released from the empty cylinder.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and oxygen cylinder manufacturers are investigating. While the investigation continues IRIC would like to ask you to:

- raise awareness of this issue in relevant areas
- continue to follow manufacturer instructions on disengaging probes from Schrader outlets
- ensure access to appropriate backup devices at all times
- report any adverse incidents to your local risk management system in the first instance and then to IRIC [here](#) as soon as possible.

When reporting an incident to IRIC please include:

- make, model and serial number of ventilator
- manufacturer and size of cylinder and release mechanism,
- probe / hose supplier (where information available)

As the Equipment Co-ordinator for your organisation, we recommend that you assess whether or not to forward this information to managers and staff within your area of responsibility who might benefit from being aware of it.

For enquiries, if you received this message directly from IRIC, email us direct at [nss.irc@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.irc@nhs.scot) or phone 0131 275 7575. Alternatively, if you have received this message from someone in your own organisation, please contact them in the first instance so they can collate enquiries and liaise with IRIC as required.

**Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC)**  
Health Facilities Scotland  
**NHS National Services Scotland**

**Contact us:**

IRIC Email [nss.irc@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.irc@nhs.scot)  
Helpline 0131 275 7575

Web <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/browse/health-facilities/incidents-and-alerts>

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