

Patient information

Storage of Entonox® and oxygen cylinders in the home for homebirth

We are pleased to support you in your choice of homebirth and wish to provide you with the following important information.

Entonox® (or gas and air): is a mixture of nitrous oxide gas and oxygen, which is inhaled through a mouthpiece and is used for short term pain relief during labour and birth. It is prescribed for you by a health care professional and is supplied in cylinders filled to high pressure. To breathe your Entonox you will be given a mouthpiece, attached to tubing, by the midwife looking after you in labour. The midwife will also make sure the equipment is set up correctly.

Oxygen: it is usual for midwives to provide oxygen cylinders for homebirth in case resuscitation of the mother or the baby is required.

As the gases are supplied in cylinders filled to a high pressure so it is important for them to be handled, and stored, correctly.

Please read the following instructions carefully

- ❖ Cylinders should be handled very carefully. They must not be knocked violently or thrown.
- ❖ Cylinders should not be lifted by the caps or valves.
- ❖ Do not smoke or have a naked flame near the Entonox cylinder. The Entonox will make a flame burn much more violently
- ❖ Cylinders should be stored on their sides between 10°C and 35°C. Room temperature is ideal.
- ❖ Cylinders should be stored so that they cannot fall over and cause injury.

❖ Cylinders should be stored out of sight and reach of children.

Number of cylinders delivered: **Entonox =** **Oxygen =**

Patient's name and signature: **Date:**

Midwife's name and signature: **Date:**

Please ask your midwife if you have any further questions or phone the Community Hub on 01284 713755

Reference: BOC Healthcare (2013) Entonox ® medicinal gas compressed.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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