

Patient information

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

Congratulations on your pregnancy. We are pleased to support you in your choice of home birth and wish to provide you with the following important information.

Introduction

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 oxygen is also supplied in cylinders filled to a high pressure it is important be careful.

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 you 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 can not fall over and cause injury.
- ❖ Cylinders should be stored out of sight and reach of children.

Number of cylinders delivered

Entonox (2)

Oxygen (1)

Woman's name

And signature Date

Midwife's name

And signature Date.....

Further questions?

Please ask your midwife if you have any further questions or phone the Communication HUB

on 01284 713755

- Copy to be given to the woman
- Copy to be filed in hand held maternity records

Reference

BOC Healthcare (2013) Entonox ® medicinal gas compressed. Information for the user.