

FDA Public
Health Advisory

Medical
Gas
mix-ups
can cause
DEATH and
serious
injury



U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

For more information call
1-888-INFO-FDA
or go to

www.fda.gov/cder/dmpq/gases.htm

Gases for medical use are prescription drugs that must be carefully regulated and handled.

Adaptors should never be used and fittings never changed on medical gas containers. If a connection doesn't fit, it isn't supposed to fit. Contact the supplier immediately.

Stoke medical grade products separately from industrial grade products in well-defined areas.

Educate and train personnel who are directly responsible for handling medical gas to:

- recognize medical gas labels
- examine all labels carefully before hooking containers to the system.

Skilled and knowledgeable personnel should always check the container and connection prior to introducing the gas into the system.

Won't Connect? Don't Connect!

Patients have been injured – and some have died – because of medical gas mix-ups. This usually occurs when the wrong gas is forcibly connected to the oxygen supply system. Please promote the importance of properly handling medical gases.

- Manufacturers who receive reports of death or serious injury associated with the use of medical gases are required by law to report those incidents to the FDA.
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities should submit reports of such mix-ups (whether or not they resulted in a serious injury) to FDA's voluntary reporting program, MedWatch:

Phone - (800) FDA-1088

Fax - (800) FDA-0178

Mail - MedWatch, Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland, MD 20857-9787