



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



## CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 02-2019

**FROM: Medical Director**

**TO: Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics**

**SUBJECT: Use of Flow Safe II CPAP device and CD Oxygen cylinders**

NAS have identified an issue that may arise when Flow Safe II CPAP devices are used with a CD oxygen cylinder. If the flow rate from the oxygen cylinder exceeds 10 litres/min, the possibility arises that the valve in the CD cylinder will stay open after the flow rate is subsequently reduced, potentially leading to a high rate of discharge of oxygen from the cylinder in excess of the selected flow rate. This issue has been notified to the Health Products Regulatory Authority and an investigation is ongoing.

In the interim, as a safety measure, **it has been decided that NAS will not use Flow Safe II CPAP devices with CD oxygen cylinders.**

Use of the Flow Safe II with cylinders that can accommodate a regulator and flow meter (eg D, E, and F cylinders) is not affected by this issue, so patients that may benefit from CPAP (as per the PHECC CPG) can continue to receive this treatment. Within the ambulance, the Flow Safe II device should be connected to the ambulance oxygen supply source via the ambulance oxygen flow meter and used in accordance with guidelines.

NAS will keep this under continuous review, and will consider the matter again when all the relevant investigations are completed.

**RATIONALE:** Ceasing use of Flow Safe II CPAP devices with CD oxygen cylinders is necessary for both patient and staff safety

**Effective from: Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE:**

Education and Competency Assurance Officer

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CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

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