

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust
ACUTE PAIN SERVICE
Anaesthetic Department, Level 2, Freeman Hospital
PROTOCOL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ENTONOX

OPERATIONAL POLICY: Routine use of entonox for adult and paediatric patients for short painful procedures in all wards and departments.

Effective Date: April 2005

1. Explain the effects of entonox to the patient and ensure the patient understands the process of entonox administration.
2. Allow the patient to adopt a comfortable position.
3. Turn the cylinder on with the key. There will be a brief hiss of gas. Observe the pointer on the pressure gauge to ensure there is sufficient gas in the cylinder for the procedure.
4. Press the base of the demand valve and listen for the noise of the gas flowing freely.
5. Ensure a bacterial filter is present between hand piece and the mouthpiece / facemask this will preserve the integrity of the demand valve.
6. An airtight seal must be maintained when using a mouthpiece or a facemask; this will ensure the patients respiratory effort is transmitted to the demand valve.
7. Allow the patient to inhale Entonox for 15-20 breaths prior to the procedure, to ensure effective analgesia.
8. The nurse must continually encourage and support the patient during the procedure and monitor the effectiveness of entonox.
9. To prevent over-administration the patient must never be forced to take Entonox although it may be necessary for a nurse to support or assist a patient who has difficulty in manipulating the equipment.
10. After use turn off the cylinder to avoid leakage of gas. Vent the apparatus by pressing the base of the demand valve.
11. If the patient requires entonox repeatedly (e.g. change of dressing) the cylinder may be retained on the ward.
12. A new disposable set must be used for each individual patient.