

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.

Stove 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 20852-9787