



ENTONOX POLICY

Entonox

Entonox gas is a 50:50 mixture of nitrous oxide and oxygen. It is an effective analgesic agent for the treatment of pain following an injury with rapid onset and offset characteristics. It is self-administered under the direction of trained personnel. Its effects are known to be predictable, reliable and very safe with minimal side effects. Although Entonox is a medical product it does not require a prescription by a medical practitioner before it can be used.

Procedure

- Before administration the patient is given an explanation on how the Entonox apparatus works and the analgesic effects of the gas and his or her understanding and consent are obtained
- If there is a doctor present, the medical centre nursing staff administer Entonox on the doctor's direct instructions
- In the absence of a doctor the medical centre nursing staff follow the indications, inclusive and exclusive criteria and administering procedures outlined in the Patient Specific Directive (PSD) (section 2)
- Nursing staff continuously monitor the patient during and after administration of Entonox and report to any adverse reactions to medical staff
- The School Medical Officer (SMO) or another member of the Old Dairy Health Centre is notified of use within 24hrs to sign the PSD which is documented in pupil's medical records or, in the case of a staff member or visitor, is sent to his or her GP
- The record of use including the time the Entonox was started and stopped is documented by nursing staff