



# Safer Practice Notice

## Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

## Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

23 Aug 2018

## For Action By:

- Respiratory
- Nurses
- Managers
- Educators

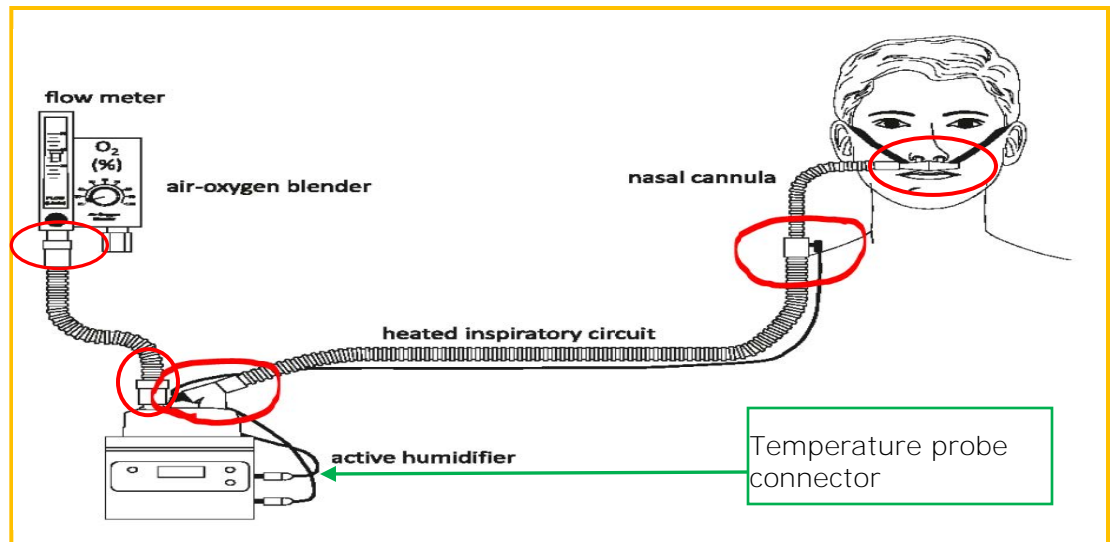
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## Potential for misconnections with Heated High Flow Oxygen Device

### Issue

- Patients on Heated High Flow Oxygen (HHFO) devices have higher oxygen & flow requirements than standard oxygen therapy patients
- Delayed recognition of oxygen disconnect or delayed response to alarms may result in lack of oxygen delivery and a sudden change in vital signs
- Refer to the diagram below identifying where patient interface disconnects may occur



- Inadvertent disconnection of humidifier temperature probes may result in patient exposure to super-heated gas

### Action

- Healthcare professionals (HCP) should:
  - routinely check all connection points in the HHFO system
  - be able to quickly identify the early signs of respiratory distress
  - refer to written procedures and practice guidelines
  - remember to use manufacturer approved consumables with devices
  - remember to turn off humidifier when changing circuits
- Managers should:
  - work with Educators to ensure HCPs are trained in HHFO safety principles
  - consult with your site or zone Respiratory Lead if you have further questions