

Equality and Health Impact Assessment

Policy for the sustainable procurement and management of medical gases to achieve decarbonisation

AWTTC will fill in an Equality and Health Impact Assessment in parallel with each development stage of our projects. This will help us to follow the five ways of working for public bodies, and work to achieving the wellbeing goals, outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Date: 29/04/2025

1.	AWTTC contact details	Tel: 02921 826900 Email: awttc@wales.nhs.uk
2.	State the objectives of the project.	<p>This project targets the procurement and management of medical gases. This work is aligned with NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan (SDP), 2021, specifically Approach to Healthcare Initiative 40 and 41 and the decarbonisation of medical gases. Further association can be made with A Healthier Wales, 2018, The Future Generations Act, 2015 and Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales, 2019.</p> <p>The policy provides a set of recommendations and example actions that promote best practice for procuring, managing, prescribing and using a range of medical gases, but, with focus on nitrous oxide and Entonox®. These will be added to a dashboard to monitor all of the above to help reduce usage and wastage. Other actions include decommissioning of manifolds and changing to a transportable cylinder option.</p>
3.	<p>Evidence and background information considered.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population data • staff and service users' data, as applicable • needs assessment 	<p>The NHS Wales 2018/19 Carbon Footprint has been calculated as ~ 1 million tCO₂e by NHS Wales Carbon Footprint 2018-19. The NHS Wales decarbonisation target of 2025 is 845,600 tCO₂e and 2030 target of 661,500 tCO₂e as set out in NHS Wales decarbonisation strategic delivery plan.</p> <p>The primary reason for reducing/terminating use is due to its disproportionate environmental impact. Ceasing use will positively impact NHS Wales' target to achieve Net Zero by 2030 and is in line with NHS Wales Decarbonisation strategic delivery plan which states that by</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• engagement and involvement findings• research• good practice guidelines• participant knowledge• list of stakeholders and how stakeholders have engaged in the development stages• comments from those involved in the designing and development stages <p>Population pyramids are available from Public Health Wales Observatory.</p>	<p>2022 “Anaesthetists will be prioritising medical gases with low global warming potential as standard”.</p> <p>Recent literature has highlighted waste into the atmosphere through current systems of 83-100% in the UK (NHSCFSD, 2023, The Nitrous Oxide Project, 2021). With a consensus statement being led by the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA, 2024) regarding the removal of piped nitrous oxide.</p> <p>By undertaking the below actions/outcomes we expect a reduction in usage/wastage.</p> <p>Actions/outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usage will be reduced for nitrous oxide and Entonox® via lean systems / moving to a portable cylinder option / decommissioning of manifolds.• Adding of nitrous oxide and Entonox® to a medicine management dashboard as previously undertaken for desflurane, isoflurane and sevoflurane.• Mandating educational training for all staff on Medical Gases committee.• Mandating Medical Gases Committee must have a standing item regarding medical gases <p>References</p> <p>A Healthier Wales. Welsh Government. 2018. Accessed 17 Oct. 2024 at A healthier Wales: long term plan for health and social care GOV.WALES</p> <p>Decommission of nitrous oxide manifolds – opportunity for change. NHS Scotland Centre for Sustainable Delivery. 2023. Accessed 08 Oct. 2024 at https://www.nhscfsd.co.uk/media/jwtnthuz/ngtp-n20-manifolds-v20-sept-2023.pdf</p> <p>NHS Wales. Decarbonisation strategic delivery plan. 2021. Accessed 09 Oct 2024 at NHS Wales decarbonisation strategic delivery plan GOV.WALES</p> <p>Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA). Consensus statement on the Removal of Pipeline Nitrous Oxide in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland in partnership with Association</p>
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		of Anaesthetists, the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland (CAI), the Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association (OAA) and the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI). 2024. Accessed 02 Oct.2024 at https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07/Consensus%20statement%20on%20removal%20of%20pipeline%20nitrous%20oxide.pdf
4.	Who will this project affect?	This project impacts how nitrous oxide is supplied. This could be via cylinder in place of piped or not available at all. Few clinicians still use nitrous oxide in Wales. Areas that decommission the manifolds can trial the portable cylinders to allow users to transition to different working.



5. EQIA - How will the project impact on people?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on people based on the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act 2010, and other factors.

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
5.1 Age For most purposes, the main categories are people aged: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• under 18 years;• between 18 and 65 years;• over 65 years.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based upon their age.		
5.2 Persons with a disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010 Those with physical impairments, learning disability, sensory loss or impairment, mental health conditions, long-term medical conditions such as diabetes.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people with a disability.	All related documents published on the AWTTC website will meet accessibility requirements.	
5.3 People of different genders: Consider men, women, people undergoing gender reassignment.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their gender, or on people undergoing gender reassignment.		
5.4 People who are married or who have a civil partner.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their marital status or being in a civil partnership.		



How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
<p>5.5 Women who are expecting a baby, who are on a break from work after having a baby, or who are breastfeeding. They are protected for 26 weeks after having a baby whether or not they are on maternity leave.</p>	<p>We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on women who are expecting a baby, are breastfeeding, or are on a break from work after having a baby.</p>	<p>Obstetrics is a high-volume user of Entonox. However, as a result of this policy it will continue to be used in the same way and will not affect patient care. The change to a portable cylinder solution may require information to be provided to patients depending upon the healthcare setting.</p>	<p>Suitable information sheets for using portable cylinders to be provided by health boards/trusts. The WAGN will disseminate an example to spread awareness to colleagues.</p>
<p>5.6 People of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin including non-English speakers, gypsies and travellers, migrant workers. The Runnymede Trust</p>	<p>We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin.</p>		
<p>5.7 People with a religion or belief or with no religion or belief. The term 'religion' includes a religious or philosophical belief. Implications of religious beliefs on selection of medicines (BMJ)</p>	<p>We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people who have a religion or belief, or people with no religion of belief. Some medicines are made from certain animal products and people might not</p>		



How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
In practice: guidance on religion, personal values and beliefs (General Pharmaceutical Council)	want to take them because of religion or belief.		
5.8 People who are attracted to other people of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the opposite sex (heterosexual);• the same sex (lesbian or gay);• both sexes (bisexual). Stonewall	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on who they are attracted to.		
5.9 People who communicate using the Welsh language in terms of correspondence, information leaflets, or service plans and design.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people who communicate using the Welsh language.		
5.10 People according to their income related group.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on their income-related group.		
5.11 People according to where they live.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on where they live.		
5.12 Consider others who face health inequalities, such as:	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people who face health inequalities.		



How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by).
5.13 Consider any other groups and risk factors relevant to this project.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people based on other risk factors.		

HIA - How will the project impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales and help address inequalities in health?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on the overall health of individual people, and the impact on the population in Wales.

How will the project impact on, or affect:	Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected	Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation	Actions taken (and who by)
6.1 People being able to access the service offered.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people's ability to access the service offered.		
6.2 People being able to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people's ability to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles.		
6.3 People in terms of their income and employment status.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of their income and employment status.		
6.4 People in terms of their use of the physical environment.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people's use of the physical environment.		
6.5 People in terms of social and community influences on their health.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of social and community influences on their health.		
6.6 People in terms of macro-economic, environmental and sustainability factors.	We do not expect a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of macroeconomic, environmental and sustainability factors.		

6. Please fill in section 7.1 after completing the EqHIA, and fill in the action plan.

7.1 Please summarize the potential positive and/or negative impacts of the project.	Overall, the policy has a neutral impact in most areas, and a positive impact on the environment.
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Action plan for mitigation or improvement and implementation

	Action	Lead(s)	Timescale	Actions taken (state who by)
7.2 What are the key actions identified as a result of completing the EqHIA?	Discuss at the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group meeting	AWTTC	December 2024	AWTTC make changes to the document after consultation AWTTC make changes to the document after AWPAG meeting.
	Send the document and EqHIA to consultation.	AWTTC	January 2025	
	Discuss updated document with AWPAG	AWTTC	March 2025	
	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group to review and endorse document	AWTTC	May 2025	
7.3 Is a more comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessment or Health Impact Assessment needed?	No			
7.4 What are the next steps?	Review for endorsement by AWMSG	AWTTC	May 2025	
7.5 Review of project and EqHIA		AWTTC	TBC	

AWTTC's EqHIA template is adapted from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board EHIA template.