

Standard:	Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Blends
Reference #:	STCMO_C09252013
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	September 25, 2013
Date to be Reviewed:	January 2017
Rescinded:	June 1, 2018
Effective date:	January 1, 2014
Attachments:	none



## NITROUS OXIDE-OXYGEN BLENDS

### Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to assist members in the safe use of nitrous oxide and oxygen blends (commonly known as Entonox) at planned out-of-hospital births.

### Definition

Nitrous oxide is an analgesia inhalant delivered in a 50% blend with oxygen.

### Background

Midwives are authorized to administer nitrous oxide and oxygen blends (e.g., Entonox) by inhalation as a form of pain management in labour. The use of nitrous oxide and oxygen blends has the potential to address a woman's need for short-term pain management and, when administered in an out-of-hospital setting, may prevent unnecessary transport to a hospital for pain management purposes.

### Standard

Midwives using nitrous oxide and oxygen blends (e.g., Entonox) at planned out-of-hospital births must develop a practice protocol addressing the following topics: <sup>1</sup>

- Storage, transportation and use, as per the distributor's specifications.
- Required equipment to deliver the inhalant, as per distributor's specifications.
- Adequate supply of non-reusable masks and mask filters or autoclavable masks.
- Conditions that must be met prior to administration, including:
  - Documented Informed choice discussion with clients
  - Adequate environmental ventilation
  - Self-administration by client
- Clinical indications for use including:
  - Stage of labour
  - Labour progression
  - Fetal well-being

<sup>1</sup> Midwives must be in compliance with the CMO Practice Protocol Standard as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

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- Length of use
- Indications for discontinuing use
- Security and safety of inhalant substances during storage and in transport.

RESCINDED