



How do I safely use my nitrous oxide and oxygen analgesia system?

OSHA has recommended guidelines for the use of nitrous oxide. Your facilities can monitor your nitrous oxide exposure by having staff who are exposed to nitrous oxide wear dosimeter badges for 8 hours. This assessment can be repeated per your facility's procedures and requirements.

Develop Training and Safety Policies

You are responsible for creating a safe workplace environment and keeping records in the event of an inspection, audit or concerned employee asks about your use of nitrous oxide. It is recommended to have a written training and safety policy on file and to keep dosimeter test reports with it. Testing of nitrous oxide exposure with dosimeter badges should be performed periodically and clearly defined in your policy.

In the event there is an inspection, you can provide them with your training and safety policy and periodic test results to show that you have been taking steps to maintain a safe workplace.

It is helpful if the written policy includes the following:

- What initial training was provided on the safe use of the system
- How your office stores the cylinders
- How your office is securing the system
- Who has access to the device / Who is allowed to use the device
- What testing procedures are in place to ensure safety for employees and patients (nitrous oxide badges, scavenging, functional checks, maintenance/cleaning, ect.)
- Test reports

If your usage patterns change over time, such as using the system more often and/or for longer durations, you should ensure that the nitrous oxide exposure is still within the recommended OSHA limits. If the monitored nitrous oxide exposure is not within the recommended OSHA limits or your clinic anticipates long term exposure to nitrous oxide, a scavenging system is highly recommended.

Nitrous oxide dosimeter badges and scavenging systems can be purchased through Plymouth Medical. Reach out to customerservice@plymouthmedical.com to receive a quote.