

If you need help in giving up smoking

Please talk to your nurse if you require assistance in giving up smoking, or take a look at the NHS website, where support and advice is available. www.nhs.uk/smokefree

RUH

A safety alert for patients

Patients who are prescribed medical oxygen
should not smoke

DANGER

NO SMOKING
OXYGEN IN USE



Smoking is strictly prohibited on the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust site



The risks of smoking if you are on prescribed medical oxygen

There have been a number of reported incidents across the NHS, of patients who have been injured or killed, as a result of smoking when using oxygen therapy.

We are taking this opportunity to remind you of the risks.

Be aware of the risks

Oxygen molecules can cling to your hair, skin and clothing and ignite upon contact with any source of flame, including a cigarette. This can result in severe burns to your body, particularly to your face and hands.

If you are undergoing oxygen therapy, you are particularly at risk if a source of ignition, such as a lit cigarette, is present.

You should never use or carry a portable cylinder under clothing. Pure oxygen is not highly flammable, but it enriches the air and promotes combustion of other materials.

Striking a match or holding a lit cigarette anywhere near it can start a fire.

Even when the oxygen delivery system is turned off, oxygen from the system will have built up around you while you were using it, making your clothes highly flammable.

If you are smoking, this will create a significant risk to you and any person in close proximity to you

If you need to smoke and are receiving oxygen therapy, you **must** tell your nurse or doctor before leaving the ward.

