

Oxygen Vendors: Important Safety Information for Oxygen Clients

On November 24, 2014, Health Canada released a statement, warning against the use of electronic cigarettes by individuals using oxygen.

Alberta Health Respiratory Benefits Program would like all oxygen vendors to notify clients on oxygen benefits of this risk as soon as possible. The risk of using electronic cigarettes should be immediately included as part of the Fire Safety portion of their education session.

The Health Canada notification can be found online at

<http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2014/42671a-eng.php>

and states the following:

“Health Canada is warning consumers of potential risks of using electronic cigarettes while undergoing oxygen therapy. Electronic cigarettes include heating elements and a power source that may be charged from a USB port or a separate battery charger. These sources of heat may ignite the electronic cigarette if they are close to oxygen in a pressurized container, such as the ones that are used for oxygen therapy. Health Canada also warns that electronic cigarette batteries should not be charged near an oxygen source due to the risk of fire.”

