them vulnerable to a unique set of potential failures, which may not be readily apparent. This makes medical gas preventative maintenance critical to a problem-free working environment.

The medical gas source equipment used will vary, depending on the type of gas and the size of the institution. For smaller needs, cylinder-only solutions are often adequate. For large hospitals with substantial requirements, large reservoirs of liquid oxygen may be maintained to provide piped gas. Compressors are also used to provide medical air, and vacuum pumps are needed for suction. Failing to properly monitor these complex pressurized systems can be costly, both in terms of increased use of consumables and damage to permanent equipment.

FMS.33 The hospital has a documented system for handling the various types of compressed gasses.

FMS.33.1 There is a policy on how to handle various types of compressed gasses, which includes:

FMS.33.1.1 Storing them in a well-ventilated area.

FMS.33.1.2 Positioning them upright the wall and secured by a chain.

FMS.33.1.3 Separating any flammables from oxidizing gases.

FMS.33.2 Exhausts of the following gases are extended to the roof and identified:

FMS.33.2.1 Laboratory safety cabinet gases of a certain classes.

FMS.33.2.2 Central vacuum gases.

FMS.33.2.3 Scavenger gases of certain types.

FMS.33.2.4 Bone marrow transplantation (BMT) laboratory gases.

Standard Intent:

Due to the nature of gas cylinders, special storage and handling precautions are necessary. The hazards associated with compressed gases include oxygen displacement, explosion hazards, toxic effect of some gases, as well as the physical hazards of a ruptured cylinder. Hospitals need to develop and implement a policy for the on how to handle, store, transport and dispose of various types of compressed gasses.