

Memo



Date: 12 August 2014
To: Venue Managers
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Our Ref: MEMO.2014.08.12.A
From: Jason Somerville-Kimlin
RE: Oxygen Equipment Flow Rates

MEMO:

As a result of discussions between Trainers and Assessors and RLSSQ administrators during RLSSQ's recent (9-10 August 2014) Professional Development Workshop, it was agreed to instruct candidates and pool lifeguards, undertaking PUAEME003C *Administer oxygen in an emergency situation* to operate oxygen equipment at a flow rate of eight (8) litres per minute, regardless of the mask or application, that is, nasal cannula, therapy mask, nebuliser mask, non-rebreathing mask, or bag mask resuscitator/bag valve mask (BVM).

Given the following:

- Ventilation volumes of between 400mL and 700mL (desired target 500 mL);
- BVM Reservoir Bag capacity of 1600mL;
- Compression to ventilation ratio of 30:2; and
- Research supporting the lower (8L/min) oxygen flow rates.

It was agreed neither resuscitation, nor the patient, would be compromised by adopting a flow rate of 8L/min during CPR. Delivery percentages, via the BVM methodology, remain at approximately 98% PROVIDED the BVM's reservoir bag has inflated before the first discharge.

Based on the capacity of the widely used "C" sized medical oxygen cylinder (440-490 Litres), discharge times will increase from 30 minutes (at 15L/min) to 55 minutes or more using the amended flow rate of 8L/min.

Unfortunately though, RLSSQ's resources won't reflect the amended rate (8L/min), informing candidates will now become a RLSSQ Trainer and Assessor responsibility.

Yours Sincerely,

Jason Somerville-Kimlin

Global Exemplar (RABQSA) Principal Auditor
Aloha Consulting