

March 26, 2020

Recently, the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP) published “Interim considerations for Obstetric Care related to COVID-19”, [read the full announcement here](#). While there are several valid recommendations, including protecting and disinfecting equipment while limiting personnel exposure, we wanted to respond to reassure our Pro-Nox™ users and their patients during this unprecedented time.

The [Pro-Nox™ Nitrous Oxide Delivery System](#), including all existing models, was developed to safely deliver a fixed 50/50 ratio of N₂O and O₂ through a demand valve to help reduce patient pain and anxiety during procedures, including obstetrics. Labor and delivery facilities have experienced a **reduction in one-on-one nursing, a delay or avoidance of epidurals, and an increase in patient satisfaction and comfort**.

Our standard Pro-Nox Circuit includes a single-patient use mask that is attached to a Y connector with a one-way demand valve and two tubes. The white tube secures directly into the Pro-Nox Mixer unit (aka “head”) with an HCH (hygroscopic condensing humidifier) bacterial/viral filter to help protect the patient and the device from cross-contamination. Patient exhalation is directed by the internal demand valve to only go through the pink tube which is attached to a scavenging system. This unique valve also prevents expelled air from going back to the machine.

During this time of heightened caution, CAREstream America recommends adding a [Pharma Systems bacterial and viral HCH filter](#) between the patient mask and Y connector. *See Figure 1 below for an example.* **We believe this double filter approach provides the highest level of protection available and adds:**

- 1. an extra level of defense against cross-contamination between the Pro-Nox and the patient, and vice-versa**
- 2. a layer of protection for the scavenger system against exhaled gases**

These specific filters have been independently tested and proven to be highly effective in providing trusted protection against bacterial and viral cross contamination. **The viral test efficiency for these filters range from >99.9% to >99.99%**. The testing occurs at the accredited Nelson Labs within the USA, who are global leaders in laboratory testing and advisement. Read more about Pharma Systems testing by [clicking here](#).

Our goal is to ensure the greatest of safety measures available to you. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us by calling 855-892-3872 or emailing info@carestreamamerica.com.

If a link is no longer working, please reach out to us and we can share information directly with you.

Best regards,

CAREstream America



Left photo, Pro-Nox Circuit with additional bacterial/viral filter placed between the mask and connector. **Right photo** includes elbow attachment for patient comfort.