Q: What is the CMS/NFPA requirement regarding liquid oxygen containers in resident rooms?

A: Currently, NFPA regulations state in 11.7.4.1 “The maximum quantity of liquid oxygen permitted in storage and in use in a patient bed location or patient care vicinity shall be 120 L (31.6 gal), provided that the patient bed location or patient care vicinity, or both, are separated from the remainder or the facility by fire barriers and horizontal assemblies having a minimum fire resistance rating of 1 hour in accordance with the adopted building code.”

NFPA recently proposed a revision to this requirement by adding a new 11.7.4.2, which states, “One liquid oxygen portable container (limited to 1.5 L (0.396 gal) capacity) per patient is permitted to be stored or used in a patient bed location or patient care vicinity without having to meet the fire separation requirement of 11.7.4.1.

IDPH has stated that they will accept the new NFPA 11.7.4.2 requirement during their Life Safety Code survey process.