

## NORWAY

# MEDICAL GASES – UN RESPONSIBILITY

### 1. ISSUE PAPER THEME: Medical

### 2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND

Several Member States has reported concern regarding availability of medical gases in a UN Field Mission. Who has the responsibility of resupplying medical gases. Nothing is listed either in the TCC or PCC guidelines for Formed Units or in the COE Manual.

This may result in unnecessary planning or concerns in the preparation of participation in a UN mission.

### 3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

Medical Support Manual, Chapter 12, para E3:

“Medical gases are essential commodities, and their procurement is the sole responsibility of the mission, which supplies them to the TCC/PCC medical facilities on a reimbursable basis. However, some TCCs/PCCs may have their own capability for re-supplying of the commodity. Upon arrival in the mission, the Commander of the TCC/PCC medical facility, has the responsibility of notifying the CMO of whether or not the medical facility will be depending on the mission for the supply of the medical gases”.

UN Secretariat, DOS/DHMOSH has confirmed that all UN missions do provide medical gases for TCC/PCC medical units and ambulances.

This issue paper has no financial impact, since the support of medical gases are a UN Responsibility. The issue paper is created, only to confirm the UN responsibility in the COE Manual.

### 4. PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

Suggested new text to Chapter 3, Annex C after para 20 (g):

**Medical gases:** Refilling of medical gases (only the medical gas and not the storage cylinder) will be provided by the United Nations according to United Nations standards unless the level 2 or 3 medical facility troop/police contributor believes it necessary to negotiate the issue. In such instances, this will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis and reflected in a Letter of Assist. Further details on medical gases can be found in chapter 12 of the United Nations Medical Support Manual.