

Scoping Plan Comment
Anesthetic Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Nitrous Oxide and Fluorinated Inhaled Anesthetics

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Comment:

The proposed 2016 Scoping Plan does not include a potentially important category of greenhouse gases emitted as inhaled anesthetics from medical, dental, and veterinary medical practices [1-8]. These gases include nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated hydrocarbons such as isoflurane (GWP=510), desflurane (GWP=2540), and sevoflurane (GWP=130)[8]. Generally, these gases are discussed on and around pages 12 and 31 of the draft scoping plan, but this source category and these fluorinated compounds are not specifically included. Research is needed to assess the impact of these gases from this ubiquitous source category and to discover possible remedies, including alternative anesthetic techniques and methods to capture or react away these gases, without affecting patient safety.

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