

## Equipment/Care: Nebulizer

date updated 8/11/03

### Purpose:

Nebulizer treatments deliver medication in mist directly into the lungs. When air from the compressor (i.e. air pump) is pushed through the tubing into the medicine chamber (i.e. nebulizer cup), the medicine breaks into a mist that the student inhales. Small dosages of medication inhaled through the lungs causes fewer side effects than the same medication taken in oral form. Medication by nebulizer also reaches the bronchioles more rapidly and less coordination and breathing effort are required.

### Issues for Concern:

- Need for activity modifications
- Knowledge of allergens and triggers for students with asthma
- Early signs of respiratory distress
- Treatment as “regularly scheduled” or treatment “as needed”
- Universal Precautions

### Suggested Training:

- Any care professional who has regular contact with a child who requires nebulizer treatment should receive general training that covers the child’s basic health care needs, potential problems and how to implement the established emergency plan.
- See attached “Checklist for Nebulizer Training”

### Tips for Use:

Age Group	Administration technique
<i>Infants</i>	<i>If administering a neb treatment, place the child in an infant seat with toys above to occupy them. For an older infant, place the child in a high chair with toys on the tray to play with.</i>
<i>Toddlers/ Preschoolers</i>	<i>Toddlers and preschool age children, have the child sit at a table with age appropriate toys on the table to play with. Read a favorite story or playing a favorite game can provide a unique one on one opportunity between teacher and child. Try to avoid providing treatment during a group activity if the child will be excluded.</i>
<i>School Age Care</i>	<i>For school-age children, if possible, give the child an option for a quiet place for medicine administration. Try and have child participate in process as independently as possible.</i>



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### Procedures:

1. *Determine need for treatment based on specific health care provider's or nurse practitioner's order including if the child may request a nebulizer treatment.*
2. *Wash Hands*
3. *Assemble Equipment*
  - *Compressor*
  - *Connecting Tubing*
  - *Nebulizer cup*
  - *Mouthpiece or mask*
  - *Medication*
  - *Diluting solution*
  - *Saline dosettes*
  - *Syringe*
  - *Filter disc/exhalation filter if needed*
4. *Place the unit on a firm, flat surface*
5. *Attach the end of the nebulizer tubing to the compressor's air outlet. Unscrew the top from the nebulizer cup.*
6. *Place the prescribed amount of medicine and diluent into the nebulizer cup.*
7. *Reattach the nebulizer cap tightly*
8. *Attach the connecting tubing to the nebulizer cup outlet*
9. *Have the student sit in suggested seating position and attach face mask*
10. *Turn on power switch.*
11. *Record medication administered on appropriate form*