

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
EMT – Basic**

SMO: Nebulizer Inhalation Treatment

Overview: Nebulizer treatments are indicated for the patient who is in need of bronchodilator therapy. This may include the patient with severe asthma, COPD or anaphylactic reaction.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Tachyarrhythmias
- Severe cardiac disease

INFORMATION NEEDED

- respiratory effort, SOB
- patient vital signs—especially note patient’s heart rate

PROCEDURE

- Observe standard precautions (gloves are a minimum, mask and goggles are recommended since patients often experience violent coughing during treatments)
- Explain the procedure to the patient
- Take the patient’s vital signs
- Assemble the Nebulizer device; place the bronchodilator and saline solution in the reservoir well of the side-stream Nebulizer
- Connect the device and administer oxygen at 8 L/minute
- Have patient inhale normally through mouthpiece of Nebulizer; the aerosol inhalation should start at the end of one tidal breath just as the patient initiates the next breath; the inhalation should continue until the patient fully expands his/her lungs
- Have the patient take a deep breath every 3 to 5 inhalations
- The treatment should last until the solution is depleted
- Place the patient back onto supplemental oxygen following medication administration
- Monitor the patient and vital signs for medication effect; treatment should be discontinued if tachycardia is greater than 120 beats per minute or paradoxical bronchospasm is noted

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- ___ Evidence of respiratory distress including wheezing or shortness of breath that would benefit by bronchodilator therapy
- ___ Patient respiratory status post-intervention

Medical Control Contact Criteria

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| ___ If patient exhibits tachycardia, contact Medical Control to determine appropriateness of proceeding with the nebulizer treatment. |
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PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Bronchodilators may cause tachycardia and other dysrhythmias. Treatment should be discontinued if patient becomes tachycardia (over 120 beats per minute) or when symptoms of breathing difficulty disappear.

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
EMT –Paramedic**

SMO: Nebulizer Inhalation Treatment

Overview: Nebulizer treatments are indicated for the patient who is in need of bronchodilator therapy. This may include the patient with severe asthma, COPD or anaphylactic reaction.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Tachyarrhythmias
- Severe cardiac disease

INFORMATION NEEDED

- Respiratory effort, SOB
- Patient vital signs—especially note patient’s heart rate

PROCEDURE

- Observe standard precautions (gloves are a minimum, mask and goggles are recommended since patients often experience violent coughing during treatments)
- Explain the procedure to the patient
- Take the patient’s vital signs and connect the patient to a cardiac monitor
- Assemble the Nebulizer device; place the bronchodilator and saline solution in the reservoir well of the side-stream Nebulizer
- Connect the device and administer oxygen at 8 L/minute
- Have patient inhale normally through mouthpiece of Nebulizer; the aerosol inhalation should start at the end of one tidal breath just as the patient initiates the next breath; the inhalation should continue until the patient fully expands his/her lungs
- Have the patient take a deep breath every 3 to 5 inhalations
- The treatment should last until the solution is depleted
- Place the patient back onto supplemental oxygen following medication administration
- Monitor the patient, EKG and vital signs for medication effect; treatment should be discontinued if tachycardia is greater than 120 beats per minute, ventricular ectopy or paradoxical bronchospasm is noted

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- ___ Evidence of respiratory distress including wheezing or shortness of breath that would benefit by bronchodilator therapy
- ___ Patient respiratory status post-intervention

Medical Control Contact Criteria

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ If any question exists as to the best option for the patient.___ If patient exhibits tachycardia, contact Medical Control to determine appropriateness of proceeding with the nebulizer treatment. |
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PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Bronchodilators may cause tachycardia and other dysrhythmias. All patients receiving these medications should be connected to a cardiac monitor. Treatment should be discontinued when cardiac side effects occur or when symptoms of breathing difficulty disappear.