

Carers Equipment Safety Card – The Nebuliser

A nebuliser converts liquid medication into a fine mist that can then be inhaled.

1. Features:

- A nebuliser pushes compressed air through liquid medication, which makes it a mist.
- This is then inhaled through either a face mask or a mouthpiece.
- In some cases, oxygen is used in the nebuliser, but only if the person's oxygen levels are low.



2. Use:

- Draw up required dose of medication as directed by the GP or nurse.
- Remove top from pre-mixed nebula and squirt directly into nebuliser well.
- Hold nebula lightly – do not squeeze when twisting top for removal, to avoid spilling contents.
- Place dose in lower chamber of nebuliser and secure lid.
- Take the person's face mask, nebuliser and secure lid.
- Connect pump to power and switch "on"/connect to air outlet

3. Cleaning:

- Parts need to be cleaned after each use.
- Tubing and the mask or mouthpiece must be replaced frequently
- Filters must be checked, cleaned (where possible) and replaced regularly.
- The pump must be serviced every 6 to 12 months to make sure it is producing the right pressures

5. Who should use a nebuliser?

Someone who:

- Is really struggling to breathe
- Can't use inhalers because they get confused, or have difficulties
- Has a severe respiratory disease
- Has lots of mucus and need the extra moisture in the nebulised treatment to help them clear it out.

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Purpose: To provide information that reinforces the education provided by nursing or support staff to assist carers to be able to safely use the nebuliser.

Note:

1. If you don't feel confident, have any difficulty assisting with this or have any concerns, please let nursing or support staff know.
2. If this equipment is faulty or damaged in anyway please let nursing or support staff know.

Please contact: The Community Palliative Care Service if you have any concerns.

Acknowledgements: Palliative Care Team – Echuca Health Service

Disclaimer: The Community Palliative Care Service and all persons involved in producing this information sheet will not be held responsible for any adverse event or loss from the implementation of all or part of this information. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the item this information sheet pertains to, is maintained to a high safety standard.

Please return this card to the Community Palliative Care Service when no longer required.