

Subject: Scope of Practice/Procedure - Paramedic
Aerosol Therapy with Small Volume Nebulizer Policy

Associated Policies:

- I. Indications
 - A. Refer to indications of specific medication to be nebulized.
- II. Therapeutic Effects
 - A. Administration of aerosolized solution and medications to the respiratory system.
- III. Contraindications
 - A. Absolute:
 1. Refer to specific medication to be administered.
 - B. Relative:
 1. Refer to specific medication to be administered.
- IV. Adverse Effects
 - A. Suppression of respiratory drive in patients with COPD.
 - B. Refer to specific medication to be administered.
- V. Equipment
 - A. One (1) small volume nebulizer
 - B. Oxygen source.
 - C. Medication (pre-mixed if available).
 - D. Oxygen mask and/or mouth piece or inline with CPAP mask device or bag value mask(BVM).
- VI. Procedure
 - A. Assemble required equipment. Select an appropriate patient/appliance interface (mask or mouth piece). Connect to oxygen source.
 - B. Position patient high fowlers, if tolerated.
 - C. Place small child or infant on caregiver's lap.
 - D. Add appropriate dose of medication and volume of solution to the nebulizer.
 - E. Adjust oxygen flow meter to deliver 7-10 liters per minute to the nebulizer.
 - F. If patient can cooperate deliver nebulized bronchodilator through mouthpiece or mask.
 - G. Instruct the patient to inspire fully, briefly hold his/her breath, passively exhale, and pause before the next inhalation.
 - H. Continue procedure until the medication has been depleted.
 - I. If child or patient is unable to cooperate or is hypoxic and cannot assist, bronchodilator can be administered via bag value mask or CPAP device.
 - J. Following treatment, encourage the patient to cough.

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Associated Policies:

VII. Special Information

- A. Monitor patient for signs of respiratory depression.
- B. Use nebulizer in addition to oxygen therapy, not instead of.
- C. Use pulse oximetry and cardiac monitor when administering medications via SVN.
- D. Medications and solutions that can be administered via small volume nebulizer:
 - 1. Albuterol Sulfate.
 - 2. Epinephrine.
 - 3. Normal Saline.
 - 4. Atrovent
 - 5. Levalbuterol

Approved By EMS Director	Larry Karsteadt (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision
EMS Medical Director	Matthew Karp, MD (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	06/06/2023