Objective

At the completion of this module, the UAP should be able to administer inhalant medications by metered dose inhalers and nebulizer.

K KEY POINTS

Depending on agency policy, inhalant medications may be given by a licensed nurse or a respiratory therapist and *NOT* by UAP. It is important to follow your specific job description and the agency's policies and procedures.

- Medications given by inhalers are inhaled into the lungs and absorbed there. In order to get into the lungs, the medication must be in a mist and inhaled deeply. These airborne medications can be delivered by a metered dose inhaler (MDI), a nebulizer, atomizer, or by a disc.

- The MDI and disc deliver a preset dose of medication when the client compresses the canister or releases the trigger. It is important for the client to use the device as instructed and to inhale deeply and evenly in order to get all of the medication into their system. If the device is not used appropriately, the medication just ends up in the mouth or on the face.

- Several different medications can be delivered by inhalants. If more than one metered dose inhalant is needed, the sequence and the number of puffs for each will be indicated on the MAR. Also the time between puffs and between different inhalers (if applicable) should be clearly stated on the MAR.

NOTE:
1) The RN or LPN is permitted to delegate **ONLY** after application of all components of the NCBON Decision Tree for Delegation to UAP and **after careful consideration that delegation is appropriate:**

 a) for **this** client,
 b) with **this** acuity level,
 c) with **this** individual UAP's knowledge and experience, and
 d) **now** (or in the time period being planned).

2) Successful completion of the "Infection Control" module by the UAP should be documented prior to instruction in medication administration by this or ANY route.

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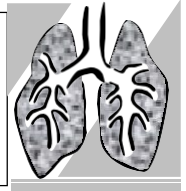
## Procedure for: METERED DOSE INHALER (MDI) WITH SPACER

1. Perform skills in *General Medication Administration Checklist.*

2. Assist the client as needed to appropriate position with head elevated.

3. Cleanse hands.

4. Put on clean gloves.

5. Use appropriate inhalers and spacers as listed on the MAR.

6. Remove cap from the inhaler canister and insert into slotted end of spacer.

Figure 6

Metered dose inhaler inserted into a handheld spacer with cap off

7. Remove cap from the spacer mouthpiece.

8. ***Shake*** the inhaler canister while it is inserted in the spacer or have the client shake the inhaler for himself/herself and shake between puffs.

9. Give the client inhalers in order listed on the MAR.

10. Have the client hold inhaler with attached spacer ready to use.

11. Have the client exhale slowly.

12. Have the client place the mouthpiece of spacer into their mouth and close their lips around it to create a seal.

13. Have the client depress canister and then inhale deeply at a consistent rate. Note, some spacer devices will whistle if the client inhales too quickly.

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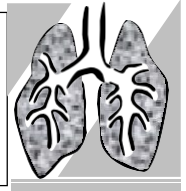
14. Have the client remove spacer from mouth and hold their breath 2-3 seconds and then breathe out slowly – like breathing through a straw.

15. Note several breaths may be needed if the client is not able to inhale deeply the first time.

16. Have the client repeat if more than one puff is listed on the MAR.

17. Refer to the MAR for how long to wait between puffs and check the time on your watch, letting the client know when it is time to take the next puff.

18. Refer to the MAR for the order of medications if more than one listed.

19. When you finish administering the medication, cleanse mouthpiece on the spacer with alcohol wipe.

20. Cap the spacer and cap the inhaler canister and store according to agency policy.

21. Remove gloves and discard according to agency policy.

22. Cleanse hands.

23. Provide the **RIGHT DOCUMENTATION.**

Procedure for: Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) held 1-2 inches from Mouth

1. Perform skills in *General Medication Administration Checklist.*

2. Assist the client as needed to appropriate position with head elevated.

3. Cleanse hands.

4. Put on clean gloves.

5. Use appropriate inhaler canister as listed on the MAR.

6. Remove cap from the inhaler canister.

7. Shake the inhaler canister.

8. Give the client inhalers in order listed on the MAR.

9. Have the client hold inhaler until ready to use.

10. Have the client exhale slowly.

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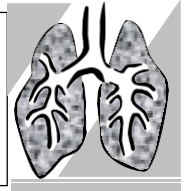
11. Have the client hold the mouthpiece of inhaler canister 1-2 inches from their mouth.

12. Have the client decompress inhaler canister while inhaling deeply at a consistent rate.

13. Have the client hold their breath 2-3 seconds and then breathe out slowly.

14. Have the client repeat, if more than one puff is listed on the MAR.

15. Refer to the MAR for how long to wait between puffs and check the time on your watch, letting the client know when it is time to take the next puff.

16. Refer to the MAR for the order of medications if more than one is listed.

17. Cleanse the mouthpiece on inhaler canister with alcohol wipe.

18. Cap the inhaler and store it according to agency policy.

19. Remove gloves and discard according to agency policy.

20. Cleanse hands.

21. Provide the **RIGHT DOCUMENTATION.**

Procedure for: METERED DOSE INHALER (MDI) IN MOUTH

1. Perform skills in *General Medication Administration Checklist.*

2. Assist the client as needed to appropriate position with head elevated.

3. Cleanse hands.

4. Put on clean gloves.

5. Use appropriate inhaler or disc as listed on the MAR.

6. Remove cap from the inhaler canister.

7. Shake the inhaler canister.

8. Give the client the inhalers in order listed on the MAR.

9. Have the client hold inhaler canister until ready to use.

10. Have the client exhale slowly.

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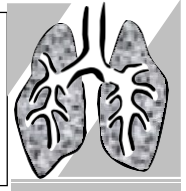
11. Have the client place mouthpiece of inhaler into mouth and seal with lips.

12. Have the client decompress canister while inhaling deeply at a consistent rate.

13. Have the client remove the inhaler and hold their breath 2-3 seconds, then breathe out slowly – like through a straw.

14. Have the client repeat if more than one puff is listed on the MAR.

15. Refer to the MAR for how long to wait between puffs and check watch, letting the client know when it is time to take the next puff.

16. Refer to the MAR for order of medications if more than one listed.

17. Cleanse mouthpiece on inhaler canister or disc with alcohol wipe.

18. Cap the inhaler canister and store according to agency policy.

19. Have the client rinse mouth out with water to remove any medication that may have hit the roof of the mouth.

20. Remove gloves and discard according to agency policy.

21. Cleanse hands.

22. Provide the **RIGHT DOCUMENTATION.**

Nebulizer or Atomizer

The nebulizer or atomizer delivers medications using compressed air, which causes the medication to become a mist that can be inhaled. The compressed air is usually set on 8-10 liters per minute or the nebulizer machine may simply have an "on/off" switch. Note that a mist begins to come out of the mouthpiece or mask once the air goes through the medication.

Procedure for: NEBULIZER OR ATOMIZER

1. Perform skills in *General Medication Administration Checklist.*

2. Assist the client as needed to appropriate position with head elevated.

3. Cleanse hands.
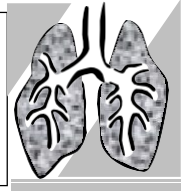
4. Using clean technique, drop medication exactly as ordered on MAR into nebulizer without touching droppers to nebulizer device.

5. Turn on the nebulizer machine and/or set airflow to level listed on the MAR.

6. Look at apparatus for misting prior to giving to the client.

7. Instruct the client to breathe normally though their mouth while they create a tight seal with their lips around the mouthpiece (or to keep the face mask securely in place) until all of the medication has been inhaled.

8. Check to be sure all medication is gone, usually after about 15-20 minutes.

9. Put on clean gloves and clean the mouthpiece of the delivery device with alcohol when the client is finished.

10. Store equipment according to agency policy.

11. Remove gloves and discard according to agency policy.

12. Cleanse hands.

13. Provide the **RIGHT DOCUMENTATION.**
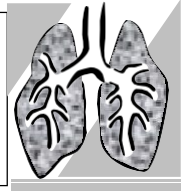
SKILL CHECKLIST

UAP Name (print)   **ID Number**

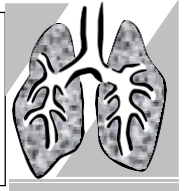| SKILL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES INHALER MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION	✓ Pass / x Not Yet	COMMENTS
1. Perform skills in *General Medication Administration Checklist.*		
2. Cleanse hands.		
3. Check the MAR for the time to wait between puffs or medications.		
4. Put on clean gloves.		
5. Give client inhalers in order listed on MAR.		
6. Assist client with proper technique of meter dose inhaler, or disc.		
7. If spacer used, remove cap of inhaler and place mouthpiece end into slot of spacer. Remove cap of spacer and shake well. Give to client to depress inhaler and inhale; or hold and instruct client.		
8. Clean mouthpiece with alcohol wipe, recap and store correctly.		

❑ **Pass**   ❑ **Redo**

Evaluator Name   **Date**

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SKILL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES NEBULIZER MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION	✓ Pass / x Not Yet	COMMENTS
1. Perform skills in *General Medication Administration Checklist.*		
2. Cleanse hands.		
3. Using clean technique, drop medication exactly as ordered on the MAR into nebulizer without touching dropper to nebulizer device.		
4. Set airflow to level listed on MAR or turn nebulizer on.		
5. Inspect apparatus for misting prior to giving to the client.		
6. Instruct client to keep device in place and to breathe at a normal rate but to inhale deeply until misting stops (about 15-20 minutes).		
7. Remove nebulizer. Check to be sure all medication has been used.		
8. Clean and store according to agency's instructions.		

❑ **Pass**   ❑ **Redo**

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Evaluator Name   **Date**

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