

## Medications Via Ventilators

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This presentation is intended to familiarize you with techniques and equipment used to deliver medications to patients via a ventilator. It is essential that all institutional policies and practices be followed with these medications as with any other medication administration. Equipment, procedures, dosing, and medications will vary. This procedure must be done under the guidance of a licensed professional who is familiar with the procedure and equipment being used.

#### **Delivery Methods**

Metered dose inhalers  
Small volume nebulizer

#### **Metered Dose Inhalers**

Administer a metered dose with each activation  
All or nothing  
Need to be shaken and warmed prior to each puff  
Need at least one minute to “recharge” between each puff

#### **Metered Dose Inhaler Procedure**

Confirm order  
Follow Standard Precautions  
Identify patient  
Check medication X 3  
Assess patient (HR, B/P, RR, LS, SpO<sub>2</sub>, need for suctioning)  
Remove HME if between MDI port and patient  
Shake and warm the canister  
Alcohol MDI port  
Insert canister in port  
Time activation with inspiration of trigger manual inspiration  
Inspiratory pause may enhance deposition  
Monitor patient between puffs  
Repeat as directed.  
Assess patient  
Record results  
Return MDI

## **Small Volume Nebulizer**

### **Procedure**

Confirm order

Follow Standard Precautions

Identify patient

Check medication X 3

Assess patient (HR, B/P, RR, LS, SpO<sub>2</sub>, need for suctioning)

Remove HME if between nebulizer port and patient

Nebulizer should be in the inspiratory limb of the circuit

Place medication in the nebulizer cup

Small Volume Nebulizer

Adjust nebulizer flow per policy (6-8 l/m)

Expiratory filters may be used

Versamed iVent Nebulizer

Nebulizes on inspiration

Functions with high pressure only

Functional with tidal volumes > 200 ml

In Advanced Settings (Menu), select nebulizer

Time is adjustable between 5 minutes and 4 hours

Tap nebulizer to assure nebulization of all medication

Small Volume Nebulizer

Assess patient

Record results

Return nebulizer

### **Documentation**

Date

Time

Dose?

Lung sounds

Complications

Need for suction and results

### **Conclusion**

Contact [milischr@westerntc.edu](mailto:milischr@westerntc.edu) if there were any problems with the presentation

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