

## SFHCHS71

### Help individuals to use nebulised medication safely and effectively



---

#### Overview

This standard covers using nebulised medication. It also includes adhering to Health and Safety and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health legislation.

This standard is intended for use in a variety of care settings including hospitals, nursing and residential homes, hospices, and community settings including the individual's own home and primary health care centres.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

# SFHCHS71

## Help individuals to use nebulised medication safely and effectively

---

### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 discuss treatment options with individuals and
  - P1.1 explain and demonstrate the procedure for using a nebulised medication
  - P1.2 inform them of the adverse reactions
  - P1.3 discuss maintenance servicing of equipment and the appropriate use of face masks or mouthpieces
- P2 ensure the face mask or mouthpiece is selected according to recommended procedures and the request of the prescribing clinician
- P3 ascertain that the individual is aware of the health and safety measures relevant to using nebulised medication
- P4 ensure that individuals can assess whether the equipment is working correctly and who to contact if and when a problem occurs
- P5 ensure the individual is aware of the importance of when to use a new nebulised chamber and when the filter should be changed
- P6 ensure that the individual knows how to administer nebulised medication as prescribed by a prescriber through the equipment according to national guidelines and local protocols
- P7 help the individual find a comfortable position within the constraints of the treatment/environment
- P8 teach the individual to recognise discomfort or any adverse reactions during the treatment and instruct both the individual and carer to take appropriate action
- P9 ensure that the individual has details of who to contact should they be concerned about their condition
- P10 ensure the individual is aware of the importance of washing and drying the nebulised chamber after each use to prevent infection
- P11 ensure the individual understands the importance of maintaining the air compressor
- P12 record the advice given to the individual in the patient held records, as appropriate, according to national guidelines and local protocols

# SFHCHS71

## Help individuals to use nebulised medication safely and effectively

---

### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your responsibilities and accountability under the current national legislation (in particular health & safety and COSHH) guidelines and local protocols with respect to the use of nebulised medication
- K2 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K3 the hazards and complications which may arise during the use of nebulised medication and how such risks can be minimised
- K4 the range of information which should be made available to the individual
- K5 the local guidelines for risk management and adverse incidents
- K6 the equipment to be used with nebulised medication
- K7 the principles of nebulisation
- K8 the suitability of nebulised medication for specific groups of individuals
- K9 the risks and complications of using nebulised medication
- K10 the methods to assess and monitor the individual during the use of nebulised medication
- K11 the factors which may compromise the comfort and dignity of individuals during the use of nebulised medication - and how the effects can be minimised
- K12 nebulised medications
- K13 accepted best practice when using nebulised medications
- K14 the contraindications to using nebulised medication
- K15 legislation and legal processes relating to valid consent
- K16 methods of obtaining valid consent and how to confirm that sufficient information has been provided on which to base this judgement
- K17 the actions to take if valid consent cannot be obtained
- K18 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people
- K19 how to confirm that individuals and/or carers have understood the instructions and guidance provided
- K20 the importance of providing individuals with opportunities to ask questions and increase their understanding
- K21 the key theories of learning and development and their application in a healthcare context
- K22 individual learning styles and the factors influencing effective learning

# SFHCHS71

Help individuals to use nebulised medication safely and effectively

---

## Additional Information

### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB4 Enablement to address health and wellbeing needs

# SFHCHS71

Help individuals to use nebulised medication safely and effectively

---

<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
<b>Version number</b>	1
<b>Date approved</b>	June 2010
<b>Indicative review date</b>	June 2012
<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
<b>Original URN</b>	CHS71
<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
<b>Suite</b>	Clinical Health Skills
<b>Key words</b>	nebuliser, administration of medications, drug administration, nebulised drugs, air compressor