

Hand Held Nebulizer Treatment

NURSE DELEGATION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL NURSING TASK

General delegated tasks are those tasks that the Nurse identifies as general in nature and once learned can be performed for all residents. The Caregiver to whom the task is delegated must demonstrate ability to perform the task as instructed by the Nurse. By signing this delegation form, the Caregiver being delegated agrees to perform the task as taught. The nurse will review Caregiver performance annually or as needed to assure continued competency in performance of the task.

General Task: HAND-HELD NEBULIZER TREATMENT

Supplies Needed

- Bed-side Nebulizer Machine
- Connective small-bore tubing
- Mouthpiece
- Nebulizer cup
- Prescribed medication
- Paper towel
- Disposable nonsterile gloves and impermeable plastic trash bag
- Handwashing solution

Procedures/Steps to Follow to Perform the Task

1. Explain the procedure to the resident.
2. Assemble the equipment and medication at a convenient work area.
3. Put on disposable gloves.
4. Offer mouthwash to resident or assist him/her with oral care as needed.
5. Fill the nebulizer cup with the prescribed medication.
6. Turn on the nebulizer. A visible mist should flow out of the mouthpiece.
7. Administer the treatment as follows:
 - Instruct the resident to insert the mouthpiece and inspire slowly through his/her mouth to facilitate maximal ventilation of the lungs.
 - After each deep inhalation, instruct the resident to hold his/her breath for a few seconds to provide maximal absorption of the medication.
 - Stay with the resident until all medication in the nebulizer has been used. Continue to encourage slow, deep respirations.
8. Turn off the nebulizer after all medication in the nebulizer cup has been used.
9. Rinse the nebulizer cup with hot running water, and allow it to air dry on a paper towel. When it is dry, store the nebulizer cup in a sealed plastic bag at the resident's bedside.
10. Encourage the resident to cough once the treatment is completed. If needed, provide the resident with receptacle such as a cup for any sputum that he/she coughs up. Instruct the resident in disposal of used tissues in plastic bag in apartment.
11. Provide resident comfort measures.
12. Remove disposable gloves and discard in plastic trash bag.
13. Wash hands with handwashing solution.
14. Document treatment in MAR.

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Outcomes

1. Resident will receive nebulizer medications as ordered by physician.
2. Resident's breathing will improve.

Potential Risks/Side Effects and Appropriate Actions to Deal with them (include what to observe for and report, what to do, and whom to contact)

1. Note any signs of difficulty breathing, wheezing, agitation, tremors, rapid heart rate. If these occur, stop treatment immediately and notify Nurse.
2. If resident should have a coughing episode during the nebulizer treatment, turn off the nebulizer until the resident stops coughing, then resume treatment.
3. Make sure the nebulizer cup is kept in an upright position. (If the nebulizer is not level, the medication does not nebulize properly and may spill into the resident's mouth.)



Signature of CAREGIVER

Delegation Competency
Review Date[illegible]