

Date Adopted	08/02	Section	800 Medications
Date Revised	08/14	Subject	806 Administering Medication Through Inhalers
Rule Referenced			

806 Administering Medication Through Inhalers

This procedure also contains instructions for administering medication through an inhaler with an adaptive device and common problems with administering medication through inhalers.

The care staff member should give medication to only one client at a time. Maintain all other medication in a locked area.

Supplies

Medication administration record

Medication

Tissues

Disposable gloves

Emesis basin

1. Wash hands.

2. Verify the information on medication administration record for the client's name, medication ordered, dosage, allergies, site of instillation and time ordered.

3. Obtain medication from client's supply, checking that the label on the container corresponds with the medication administration record.

4. If there are discrepancies between the medication administration record and medication label, do not give the medication. Verify the correct information through:

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- Doctor visit reports
- Client record
- Client file
- Program record
- Calling pharmacy
- Calling physician
- Calling Program Administrator

5. Check equipment and clean if dirty.

6. Identify the client.

7. Provide tissues to the client.

8. Explain the procedure to the client.

9. If the client raises doubts or concerns about the medication, double check the label and medication administration record. If a client refuses to take medication:

- a. Find out why.
- b. Explain to the client what the medication is for and why it will help.
- c. If the client still refuses to take the medication, wait fifteen minutes and try again.
- d. If the client still refuses to take the medication, contact the Program Administrator.
- e. Contact the physician.

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f. Document the refusal and reason for refusal on the medication administration record.

10. Assist the client to a sitting position.

11. Check that the label on the medication container corresponds with the medication administration record.

12. Wash hands again and put on gloves.

13. Insert metal canister into end of mouthpiece.

14. Remove protective cap, invert canister and shake thoroughly.

15. With mouthpiece pointing into the air, away from everyone, press once on upended canister base to ensure canister contains medication and is operating properly.

16. Direct client to enclose mouthpiece with lips. Hold the canister vertically.

17. Direct client to exhale deeply then inhale slowly through the mouth while you firmly press on the upended canister. Direct the client to continue to inhale deeply.

18. Direct client to hold breath for a few seconds. Remove mouthpiece and direct client to exhale slowly.

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19. If two inhalations are ordered, wait at least five minutes before repeating steps 16 through 18.
20. Replace protective cap.
21. Direct client to rinse mouth with water and spit into emesis basin.
22. Leave the client in a comfortable position for a few minutes and follow the instructions on the medication administration record regarding supervision.
23. Return medication to storage area.
24. Remove and dispose of gloves according to facility policy.
25. Wash hands.
26. Clean and replace equipment as specified on the medication administration record.
27. Document on medication administration record:
 - a. Medication given
 - b. The number of inhalations given
 - c. The initials of the person giving medication
 - d. Unusual complaints and action taken

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Administering Medication through Inhaler with Adaptive Device

Supplies

Medication administration record

Medication

Adaptive device or Ziplock bag with tube, as specified on medication administration record

Tissues

Disposable gloves

Emesis basin

1. Wash hands.
2. Verify the information on medication administration record for the client's name, medication ordered, dosage, allergies, site of instillation and time ordered.
3. Obtain medication from client's supply and check that the label on the container corresponds with the medication administration record.
4. If there are discrepancies between the medication administration record and medication label, do not give the medication. Verify the correct information through:
 - Doctor visit reports
 - Client log
 - Client file
 - Staff log
 - Calling pharmacy

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- Calling physician
 - Calling Program Administrator
5. Check equipment and clean if dirty.
 6. Identify the client.
 7. Provide tissues to the client.
 8. Explain the procedure to the client.
 9. If the client raises doubts or concerns about the medication, double check the label and medication administration record. If a client refuses to take medication:
 - a. Find out why.
 - b. Explain to the client what the medication is for and why it will help.
 - c. If the client still refuses to take the medication, wait fifteen minutes and try again.
 - d. If the client still refuses to take the medication, contact the Program Administrator.
 - e. Contact the physician.
 - f. Document the refusal and reason for refusal on the medication administration record.
 10. Assist the client to a sitting position.
 11. Check that the label on the medication container corresponds with the medication administration record.

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12. Wash hands again and put on gloves.
13. Insert metal canister into end of mouthpiece.
14. Remove protective cap, invert canister and shake thoroughly.
15. With mouthpiece pointing into the air, away from everyone, press once on upended canister base to ensure canister contains medication and is operating properly.
16. Follow specific directions on medication administration record for use of adaptive device.
17. If two inhalations are ordered, wait at least five minutes before repeating step 16.
18. Replace protective cap.
19. Direct client to rinse mouth with water and spit into emesis basin.
20. Leave the client in a comfortable position for a few minutes and follow the instruction on the medication administration record regarding supervision.
21. Return medication to storage area.
22. Remove gloves and dispose of gloves according to facility policy.

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23. Wash hands.

24. Clean and replace equipment as specified on the medication administration record.

25. Document on medication administration record:

- a. Medication given
- b. The number of inhalations given
- c. The initials of the person giving medication
- d. Unusual complaints and action taken

Common Problems with Inhalers

Not giving the medication as directed

Do not give more inhalations than the directions state. Medication works better when waiting five minutes between inhalations.

Not shaking the inhaler

Shake the inhaler before giving to ensure the right amount of medication sprays out.

Breathing in too fast

Breathing in too fast causes most of the medication to stick in the client's mouth and throat instead of getting into the lungs.

Holding the inhaler upside down

If you hold the inhaler upside down (canister on the bottom) it will stop spraying.

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Spraying the inhaler at the wrong time

If you spray at the end of the client's inhalation or when exhaling, the medication won't get into the clients lungs, as it is supposed to.

Canister is empty

To determine amount of medicine in canister, put the canister in a clear glass or plastic container filled with water. If the canister lies horizontal on the bottom of the container, it is full. If the canister floats horizontal on the water, it is empty. If it floats at any level in the water, it is partially empty. The closer to the top it floats the less medication it contains.