

Nebulizer Pause in Ambulatory Offices – 10.27.20 1616

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Decision

Albuterol inhalers with a spacer or mask is the preferred treatment over nebulized albuterol in the ambulatory clinic setting except in cases when used with other testing and/or therapy.

Situation

Per current CDC recommendations, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers should wear an N95 or equivalent, instead of a facemask, for aerosolized generating procedures. Currently, many healthcare workers in the ambulatory clinics, where aerosolized generating procedures are provided, have NOT been fit tested for the new types of N95 masks.

Background

Historically, many primary care providers and pediatricians have routinely provided nebulized and other aerosolized treatments to patients during the viral season to reduce burden on and use of urgent care / emergency departments for patients with respiratory illness. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, these treatments have been provided using a simple face mask.

Assessment

Due to current limitations in fit testing capacity, the occupational health team will need to prioritize testing within the inpatient and post-acute setting. As such, ambulatory employees will not have access to fit testing required for N95 masks during the upcoming viral season.

Recommendation

Due to these limitations, the clinical practice council recommends that ambulatory clinics do NOT provide nebulizer or other aerosolized treatment during the upcoming viral season. Instead, ambulatory providers should maximize the use the clinical practice of MDI + Spacer +/- Mask to support patients within the ambulatory clinic setting as needed.

Exceptions to this recommendation are the pediatric and adult pulmonology and allergy clinics, where aerosolizing procedures are often provided in conjunction with other testing and/or therapy. It is recommended that these employees receive the fit testing to N95 masks.

See the supplemental materials for product and disposal information

Products

Albuterol Inhaler – From Cardinal Health

- Albuterol Sulfate – Item # (as of 10/13/2020) 4094686

Spacer – From Lawson

- Disposable Spacer – Item # 62104
- Reusable Spacer – Item # 400016

Masks – From Lawson

- Children’s Mask, small – Item # 400015
- Children’s Mask, medium – Item # 400011
- Adult mask – Item # 653070

After completion of therapy

At this time, for ambulatory offices, the albuterol inhaler should be treated as single use and disposed of after treatment. The spacer and/or mask may be given to the patient if utilization of an inhaler will be continued.

Clinical decision support

In Epic, please choose the outlined product and adjust the number of puffs as needed. Add Administration Instructions to utilize a spacer and/or mask.

Name	Dose	Route	Frequen	Pref List	Copay	Coverage	Formulary	Type
albuterol (PROVENTIL, VENTOLIN) nebulizer solution 0.083%		Nebul...	Once	SH OP CA...				Generic Rx
albuterol (PROVENTIL, VENTOLIN) nebulizer solution 0.5%	2.5 mg	Nebul...	Once	SH OP CA...				Generic Rx
albuterol (PROVENTIL, VENTOLIN, PROAIR) 90 mcg inhaler	2 puff	Inhala...	Once	SH OP CA...				Generic Rx
albuterol sulfate (PROAIR RESPICLICK) inhalation powder		Inhala...	Once	SH OP CA...				Generic Rx
ipratropium-albuterol (DUO-VENT) nebulizer solution	3 mL	Nebul...	Once	SH OP CA...				Generic Rx...

albuterol HFA (PROVENTIL HFA, VENTOLIN HFA, PROAIR HFA) 90 mcg inhaler ✓ Accept ✗ Cancel

Reference: 1. Lexi-Comp 2. Peds & Neo Lexi-Drugs

Links:

Dose: puff puff puff

Administer Dose: 2 puff
Administer Amount: 2 puff

Route: Inhalation

Frequency: Once

Starting: 10/15/2020 At: 1500

First Dose: **Today 1500** Number of doses: **1**

Scheduled Times

10/15/20 1500

May Initiate Bronchodilator Yes No

Admin. Inst.:

Note to Pharmacy:

Priority:

Show Additional Order Details