

Nebulizer Equipment

Nebulizer therapy is a treatment during which a fine mist of medication is inhaled down the tubes of your lungs. Breathing the medication directly into the lungs allows it to work faster and more effectively. Aerosol therapy assists a patient with respiratory difficulties to breathe easier and with less effort.

Most frequently, a respiratory medication called a bronchodilator is used with the treatment. A bronchodilator relaxes and opens the tubes in the lungs allowing you to breathe easier and to cough up secretions more effectively.

An aerosol treatment is taken with a small compressor and a nebulizer. The compressor generates a flow of air through the tubing. The liquid medication is placed in a nebulizer. Air flows through the nebulizer assembly and turns the medication into a fine mist that is then inhaled into your lungs with the air from the compressor.

Delivery of Nebulized Medication via Hand Held Nebulizer

1. Wash your hands
2. Place prescribed medications into the nebulizer cup.
3. Nebulizer needs to be in an upright position to nebulize medication. The patients need to be in a sitting or held in a sitting position to receive effective therapy. If using a mask, it should be held snugly against patient's face during entire treatment. Simply blowing mist towards face is ineffective.
4. If using a mouthpiece, the patient must breathe through his/her mouth or the medication will not enter the lungs.
5. If the patient is able, have them inhale slowly and deeply every 3-4 breaths and to hold for a few seconds (to allow maximum deposition of medication). If the patient becomes light-headed, a normal breathing pattern should be resumed.
6. Frequent swallowing may be necessary to keep saliva from draining into the nebulizer cup.
7. Treatment is completed when nebulizer does not make a steady mist. When intermittent misting occurs, gently tap nebulizer cup to free medications from sides of cup. Treatments usually last about 7 to 10 minutes.

8. If medication leaks out of nebulizer cup, make sure all fittings are snug. If leak continues, replace with spare kit.
9. If concerns or questions arise regarding nebulizer kit or compressor, call Carle Medical Supply.
10. If there are questions or concerns regarding patient's condition, call the patient's physician.
11. **Keep a spare nebulizer kit available at all times.**

Operation of Equipment

Air Compressor

Plug into a grounded outlet and place on hard, flat surface.

Filters

Your machine will have either a disposable or a washable filter. The filter should be washed or replaced each month or as needed. To wash, simply run under water and dry thoroughly. If your machine used disposable filters, simply replace filter with a clean one. Replacement filters can be obtained at Carle Medical Supply.

Cleaning of Machine

The outside of the compressor can be wiped with a damp cloth (never submerge compressor in liquid). If your compressor fails to operate, plug it into a different electrical wall outlet. If your machine still fails to work, try your spare nebulizer kit. If the spare does not work, call Carle Medical Supply.

Nebulizer Kit

Keep a spare nebulizer kit available at all times. The supply tubing attaches the compressor to the nebulizer cup. Treatment will be given either using a mouthpiece or a mask. The mouthpiece will attach to the "T" piece and the "T" piece fits snugly onto the nebulizer cup. The mask attaches directly to the nebulizer cup. Do not occlude the holes of the facemask. Straps should be removed from masks for patients less than 2 years old.

Cleaning

Clean daily by disassembling kit and washing in soapy water (do not wash supply tubing). Rinse thoroughly.

It is recommended this kit be disinfected daily with Control III (see bottle or pamphlet for instructions and precaution). If not using Control III, soak cleaned kit (except supply tubing) in 1 cup white vinegar and 3 cups water for 30 minutes. If you have been informed by your health care professional not to use vinegar and water, Control III should be used. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry on paper towel or clean cloth.

Place in clean plastic bag until next treatment.

Medications

Reviewed and instructed by pharmacist and/or respiratory therapist (frequency, dosage, side effects, etc.).

Troubleshooting Chart

Trouble	Probable Cause	Remedy
Unit not operating	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plug not firmly in wall2. No power at wall outlet3. Equipment failure	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Check plug at outlet2. Check power source (fuse or circuit breaker) in house.3. Contact Carle Medical Supply.
No Mist	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nebulizer kit dirty or clogged	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clean or replace kit.
Low Mist	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nebulizer kit dirty or clogged	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clean or replace kit.2. Replace or clean filter.
Treatment lasting longer time than usual	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Faulty nebulizer kit.2. Faulty equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use spare nebulizer kit. If problem continues, call Carle Medical Supply.2. Contact Carle Medical Supply.



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