

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-15 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS VIA NEBULIZER

Policy:

- To establish guidelines for the administration of medications via a nebulizer.

Equipment:

- Gloves and additional PPE as necessary.
- Medication to be instilled into the nebulizer.
- Sterile saline for dilution – humidification.
- Nebulizer with oxygen connecting tubing.
- Oxygen.
- 4X4's or facial tissue
- Convenience bag or emesis basin.
- Stethoscope.

Procedure:

- Don PPE
- Assemble required equipment, medication and supplies.
 - Check for the six rights of medication administration as well as:
 - Expiration date.
 - Seal leakage.
 - Contamination.
 - Abnormal color.
 - Cloudiness.
- Confirm the order/dosage by writing it down.
- Ascertain if the patient has an allergy to the medication that you are to administer
- Explain the medication administration procedure to the patient.
 - If the mist will be inhaled via a mouthpiece:
 - The patient will need to tightly seal their lips around the mouthpiece and breathe only through their mouth.
 - If the mist will be inhaled via a mask:
 - There should be a tight fit to the face to avoid any excess leakage.
- Prepare the nebulizer for administration of desired medication:
 - Inject the required amount of medication into the canister.
 - Add the required diluent, if necessary
 - Reassemble the nebulizer according to the manufactures directions.
- Turn on the oxygen to the required flow, 8LPM-10LPM per manufacturer's recommendations
- Place patient into a sitting position for maximum respiratory movement.
- Direct the patient to inhale slowly and deeply to allow their lungs to be filled, and to then exhale as completely as possible before the next inspiration.
- If the patient needs to expectorate, have 4X4's, tissue and emesis basin available.
- Continue the procedure until the nebulizer is no longer discharging the humidified oxygen mixture.
- Reconnect any previous oxygen to the patient.
- Auscultate lung fields following procedure to assess any change in patient condition.
- Monitor the patient for desired therapeutic effects and/or possible complications.

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II-15 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS VIA NEBULIZER (continued)

Documentation:

- Who performed task.
- PPE and equipment used.
- Name, concentration – dosage of medication.
- Any complications or undesired side effects.
- Were desired therapeutic effects attained?
- Time medication was administered.