



INHALED MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION: ORAL METERED DOSE INHALER WITH SPACER

Administering an oral metered dose inhaler with a spacer to a child:

Complete PREPARATION PHASE

Complete ADMINISTRATION PHASE

Prepare:

1. Remove the inhaler from the box and compare it against the container.
2. Shake the medication as indicated.
3. Take the cap off the inhaler mouthpiece and attach the inhaler to the child's spacer. If a mask is needed, attach the child's mask to the spacer.
4. (Optional*) Put on gloves.



Compare the consent form against the medication label for the **Five Rights** before administering the medication to the child.

- medication time dose route child's name

Second
Check

Administer:

1. Have the child stand.
2. Have the child insert the spacer mouthpiece into her mouth and close her lips loosely around it. If a mask is attached to the spacer, place the mask on the child's face, covering both the nose and mouth.
3. With the child's head tilted slightly back, ask her to take a slow deep breath. As she does this, press down on the inhaler to release the spray into the spacer.
4. Have her inhale deeply and slowly over 3-5 seconds.
5. Keeping the spacer mouthpiece in the child's mouth, have her hold her breath for a few seconds then breathe out into the spacer.
6. With the spacer mouthpiece still in the child's mouth, have her continue breathing in and out into the spacer for at least three more cycles to be sure all the medication in the spacer chamber is used.
7. If additional puffs are needed, wait the recommended time per the health care provider's instructions before giving the second puff.
8. Take the spacer off the inhaler, wipe the spacer mouthpiece with a tissue and replace the cap.
9. Take off gloves and discard in an appropriate manner.
10. Have the child rinse her mouth with water and spit it out. Do not have the child swallow the water.



Complete DOCUMENTATION PHASE



Handout 5.15

Medication related equipment must be kept clean and in working order. This will prevent the spread of germs, prevent giving a wrong dose due to residual medication “build-up” and avoid giving an incorrect dose due to an equipment malfunction. Medication related equipment should be cleaned after the administration of the medication has been documented and the medication has been returned to the safe storage area.

To clean a metered dose inhaler:

1. Remove the medication canister from the mouthpiece.
2. Take off the inhaler cap.
3. Rinse both the mouthpiece and the cap under warm running water for a minute. Never put the canister of medication in the water.
4. Shake off the excess water.
5. Allow the parts to air dry on a clean towel or wipe with a lint free towel then reassemble.

To clean a spacer:

1. Clean the spacer as directed by the manufacturer.

* Glove use is recommended to protect both you and the child.

You should use gloves when administering medication if:

- the skin on your hands is cut, scabbed or broken
- it would be harmful for the medication to come in contact with your skin
- you feel more comfortable wearing gloves to administer the medication