

Assessment of Competence

Community Staff Only

Competency Number:17

Clinical Skill: Support for Patient Self Administering a Nebuliser (Can only be achieved once competent with baseline observation skills)

Name: _____ **Location:** _____

Aim: To safely support a patient self administering a prescribed drug via a nebuliser in the community setting.

Objectives: The care worker will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary to support a patient to self administer a prescribed drug via a nebuliser in the community.
- Demonstrate competency in providing this support.

Training: Attendance at a training session and / or one to one training dependant on the location of staff

Assessment: Using performance criteria overleaf.

Those acting as trainers / assessors in clinical practice must hold an assessor qualification and must be certified as competent in the procedure themselves and be undertaking the procedure regularly.

Risk Assessment: **High** (risk to patient as a result of care worker error).

Update: Competence to be reviewed annually at appraisal/Individual Performance Development Review (IPDR), or sooner if limited practice or extended leave taken.

Underpinning Knowledge

- Evidence of achieved competence in baseline observation skills, temperature, pulse, respiratory observation and blood pressure measurement.
- Basic understanding of non medical interventions to manage breathlessness.
- State the function of a nebuliser used in a prescribed drug regime and identify when they might be used.
- Basic recognition skills re the symptoms of respiratory distress.
- To know and understand how to use the correct equipment to provide support for a patient self administering a nebuliser.
- To know how to ensure regular servicing of equipment as per policy guidelines.
- To have an understanding of the drugs prescribed for the individual, the dose, its effects and how it is to be administered via the nebuliser.
- To have a safe working knowledge of how to provide individual support to allow the person to administer a nebuliser.
- To know where to record and report the drug administered via the nebuliser.
- Infection Prevention and Control Measures such as hand hygiene, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), disposal of single use components and equipment cleaning.
- A working understanding of what is meant by individual patient 'consent'.
- Importance of privacy and dignity.
- Knowledge of organisational policies, procedures and guidelines, and how to access.
- Factual awareness of legislation, policy and good practice such as sphere of competence.
- Clinical record keeping and documentation including the importance of keeping accurate records and onward referral.

I certify that the above-named worker has completed the theoretical assessment which

covered the above:

Signed:		Date:	
Print Name:		Position:	

Clinical Skill		Performed Safely (sign and date)
Performance Criteria: the worker will:		
1. Demonstrate appropriate use of hand hygiene and use of PPE prior to, during and after the procedure.		
2. Check patients name on both the prescription and on the medicine box, are correct for the named patient, before commencing the procedure.		
3. Check the drug name and dose with the prescription chart, and also check drug expiry date before commencing the procedure.		
4. To be aware that if no drug administration sheet is in the individual's notes that the procedure must not be undertaken and must be reported to a trained member of staff and documented		
5. Gain and document informed consent.		
6. Prepare the individual by ensuring that they are well supported, and in as upright a position as possible.		
7. Demonstrate the correct assembly of the nebuliser so that it is ready for use.		
8. Empty the correct dose from the nebule into the nebuliser chamber.		
9. Observe the baseline respiratory rate and then assist the individual to place the mask / mouthpiece over / on their mouth as required. Switch on the nebuliser.		
10. Provide reassurance throughout the procedure to ensure that the patient is breathing steadily through their mouth.		
11. Discontinue the nebuliser after 10 minutes and assist the individual to remove the mask / mouthpiece as required. Observe the individual's respiratory rate and look for signs of improvement.		
12. Clean the equipment and dispose of waste as per organisational policy.		
13. Record the drug and dose legibly in the appropriate section of the prescription, and document any relevant information on the support plan.		
14. Report any changes or concerns to the district nurse / team leader, in accordance with the support plan.		
I confirm that the worker named overleaf has completed the assessment competently.		
Signed:		Date:
Print Name:		Position:

Assessor Comments:**Candidate Comments:**

Declaration: I confirm that I have had theoretical and practical instruction on how to safely and competently perform and agree to comply with the policy and procedures of the employing authority. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to maintain and update my knowledge and skills relating to this competency.

Signed: _____ **Grade:** _____

References / Bibliography:

Essential Nursing Skills (2001) Maggie Nicol et al, Mosby Press

The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures (2008) 7th ed.

BTS guidelines on current best practice for nebuliser treatment. Thorax 1997, Apr 52 (suppl 2): 1-106

United Bristol Healthcare Trust – Directorate of Children's services, Nebuliser Guidelines.

1 copy for personal KSF file / portfolio 1 copy to Training Dept 1 copy individuals personnel file

Competency Production Date: November 2008

Competency Review Date: November 2010