

INHALER ADMINISTRATION

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Clinical Indications: The patient has the indications for use of an inhaler: signs and symptoms of breathing difficulty and an inhaler prescribed by a physician.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. The patient has the indications for use of an inhaler (above).
 - 3.2. Assure 6 rights: right drug, right dose, right patient, right time, right route, and right documentation.
 - 3.3. Check expiration date of inhaler.
 - 3.4. Check if the patient has already taken any doses.
 - 3.5. Remove oxygen from the patient.
 - 3.6. The EMT coaches the patient in use of the inhaler:
 - 3.6.1. Assures inhaler is at room temperature or warmer.
 - 3.6.2. Shake inhaler vigorously several times.
 - 3.6.3. Have patient exhale deeply.
 - 3.6.4. Have patient put his/her lips around the opening of the inhaler.
 - 3.6.5. Have patient depress the hand-held inhaler as he/she begins to inhale deeply.
 - 3.6.6. Instruct patient to hold his/her breath for as long as she comfortably can so medication can be absorbed.
 - 3.7. Place oxygen back on the patient.
 - 3.8. If patient has a spacer device for use with an inhaler, it should be used.
 - 3.9. Reassess patient: vital signs, focused exam paying special attention to breathing adequacy.