

BLS PROVIDER ASSISTING WITH METERED DOSE INHALER (MDI)

INDICATIONS:

- Respiratory distress in a patient with a prescribed Albuterol or ipratropium (Atrovent ®) MDI

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Altered mental status
- Prescribed inhaler has expired
- Known allergy to medication delivered by MDI

EQUIPMENT:

- Personal protective equipment
- Oxygen delivery equipment
- Blood pressure cuff and stethoscope

PROCEDURE:

1. Ensure that Advanced Life Support is enroute
2. Perform a complete assessment, including initial vital signs
3. Verify respiratory distress (wheezing, use of accessory muscles, labored breathing)
4. Provide supplemental oxygen at a flow rate that is appropriate for the patient and condition
5. Verify MDI is labeled and prescribed for patient and not expired
6. Do not shake MDI
7. Assist patient with administration of MDI medication
 - a. Remove nozzle cover if present
 - b. Have patient exhale and place MDI to lips
 - c. Have patient seal lips around nozzle and inhale
 - d. Fully depress medication canister into holder while patient inhales
 - e. Remove MDI and have patient hold breath for 10 seconds or as long as comfortable
 - f. Allow patient to resume breathing and when possible repeat second dose following steps a - e above.
8. Resume oxygen therapy after administration of medication
9. Update vital signs every ten (10) minutes and document

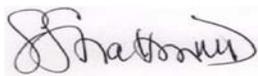
DOCUMENTATION:

- Complete Assessment including initial and updated vital signs
- Time(s) for assisted administration of MDI
- Description of why the patient needed assistance with inhaler

NOTES:

- Ensure that Advanced Life Support is enroute
- Give detailed report to ALS personnel when they arrive, including time(s) MDI used
- Absence of wheezing may be due to low air exchange (shallow breathing from severe disease)
- For patient with difficulty speaking, always consider upper airway obstruction

Approved:



TxGuide: MDI: B-20
Implementation Date: 10-01-09