

PROCEDURE No: 565	Version 4.0	Page 1	Last Up-dated: 01 August 2006
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MEDICAL CARE - ADMINISTRATION BY INHALATION			

1. **CONSIDERATION:**

Whilst the majority of medications are administered by mouth or injection there are other routes which may be more appropriate for certain substances which are indicated by particular medical conditions. Route of administration may also be affected by client choice and clinical suitability.

2. **DEFINITION:**

2.1 The inhalation of a range of medication with the aim of localised therapeutic effect. In modern therapeutics:

- Nebulisation
- Aerosolisation
- Dry Powder Inhalation

2.2 *Nebulisation* - involves the passage of air (or sometimes oxygen) through a solution of the medication to create a fine spray.

2.3 *Aerosolisation* - is passing a metered volume of solution through a valve under pressure to allow the delivery of a measured dose of medication in a fine spray.

2.4 Dry powder inhalation is the sucking of medication as a fine powder (e.g. Intal).

3. **EQUIPMENT:**

- MAR Record Chart
- Medication to be administered
- Inhaler as prescribed

4. **PROCEDURE:**

4.1 Explain the procedure to the client.

4.2 To permit full expansion of the diaphragm, seat the client in an upright position if possible.

4.3 To reduce the risk of infection, wash hands with soap and water. Dry thoroughly.

4.4 Administer only one drug at a time, unless specifically instructed to do otherwise by the medical practitioner.

4.5 To ensure the correct dosage, measure any liquid medication with a syringe.

4.6 Correct use of inhalers / nebulisers is essential (see manufacturer's leaflets) and will be achieved only if this is carefully explained to the client. Incorrect use may result in most of the dose remaining in the mouth and / or being expelled almost immediately. This renders the treatment ineffective.

4.7 Record administration of drug(s) on MAR and observe for side effects.

4.8 Clean equipment after use.