HOW TO?

... use a Nebulizer with a compressor

BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority
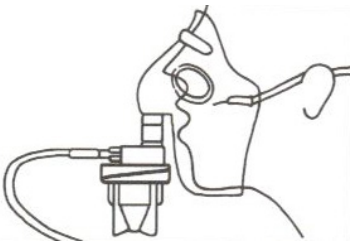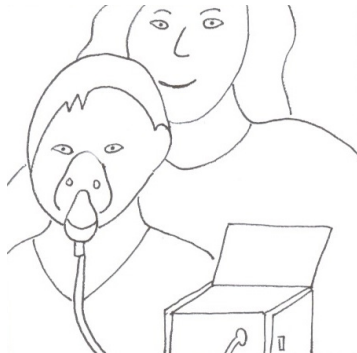
The Nebulizer is powered by a compressor that allows asthma medication to be made into a mist that can be breathed in. Nebulizers are used for children who do not respond to other forms of medication delivery (i.e. during a severe asthma episode when breathing is very difficult and shallow).

Note: There are many different compressors, please check the manual for exact use instructions.

1. Place the compressor on a level surface above the floor, and plug in.

2. **Connect the tubing** to the air outlet connection on the compressor.

3. **Gently shake** then twist top off medication ampoule and **squeeze liquid into nebulizer cup**.

4. Connect one end of the cup to the face mask or mouthpiece, and the other end to the air pump.

5. Turn on the compressor. **Holding the nebulizer upright*** put the mask firmly over child's mouth and nose **or** place mouthpiece into mouth. Use the elastic or simply **hold the mask****

6. Shake the contents of the cup gently again. Let your child **breathe normally** until no mist is formed (about 10-15 minutes). Remove mask and turn off compressor.

7. **Wipe** your child's face with a damp cloth and **rinse mouth** or give a drink if a corticosteroid was given.

* The nebulizer works only when the cup is upright so the child should not lie down during treatment.
** Medication is lost into the room if mask is not held firmly over the mouth and nose.

Notes
- Some nebulizers require a minimum volume of 3 ml of liquid to work properly. Check with your pharmacist to see if you are required to add sterile saline to your medication.
- Check storage instructions for medications.

Cleaning instructions
- The nebulizer cup should be rinsed after each use. The cup and mask/mouthpiece should be washed daily with warm water and mild detergent. Rinse well and dry by connecting the cup to the compressor of to the air inlet.
- The compressor's air intake **filter** should be checked monthly and replaced when dirty.

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