**Plano Independent School District**

**School Health**

**Nebulizer Administrative Guideline**

**Purpose**

To relieve symptoms of asthma such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, retractions or other student specific asthma signs and symptoms as indicated.

A nebulizer changes liquid medicine into fine droplets (in aerosol or mist form) that are inhaled through a mouthpiece or mask. A nebulizer may be used instead of a metered dose inhaler. A nebulizer is the cup. It is powered by a compressed air machine and plugs into an electrical outlet. Both controller and reliever medicines can be given by a nebulizer.

Nebulizers are often used with children because the procedure is easier to coordinate and use than metered dose inhalers.

**Definitions**

* **Action Plan** – plan developed and signed by physician outlining medication and care to be given during the school day. May be used as Individual Health Plan if no additional care is required.
* **Compressor nebulizer system –** compressed air machine thatconverts liquid medication into a mist so it can be easily and more effectively inhaled through a mask or mouthpiece.
* **Connecting tube –** tubing that connect the compressor to the nebulizer.
* **5 Rights of Medication Administration** - the right patient, the right drug, the right dose, right route, the right time.
* **Mask/mouthpiece –** device that either fits over the mouth and nose or is held between the teeth to deliver air to be inhaled into the lungs.
* **Medication Administration Form** – Plano Independent School District specific form signed by the parent giving permission for parent provided medication to be given during school and school related activities.
* **Nebulizer –** cup portion of the system that holds liquid medicine.
* **Universal Precautions** - precautions designed preventing transmission of blood borne pathogens such as human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B and other blood borne pathogens when first aid or health care is provided.

**Nebulizer Program Coordinator**

Coordinator for District Health

**Responsibilities**

* Coordinate with Plano ISD principals and/or building manager and school nurses in the selection of employees for training.
* Coordinate appropriate devise maintenance.
* Oversee the maintenance of specifications/technical information.
* Assure quality improvement by revising this guideline as required

through the monitoring of training and the effectiveness of use.

* Communicate with medical officer on issues related to the nebulizer.

**Environment/Setting**

There are no restrictions as to where a nebulizer can be given. However, the health office is the most private setting for medication administration and machine use. The cabinet will be well marked and kept unlocked for ease in an emergency.

**Restrictions**

Some students will have permission to self-carry and self-administer nebulizer by means of portable hand held nebulizer. Permission to self-carry and self-administer must be given by the physician, parent and school nurse. Student must show responsible behavior with medication and proven reliability of dosage and usage in order to self-carry. If deviations in reliability or responsible behavior occur, self-carry rights will be reviewed by school nurse, parent and physician.

**Applicable documents**

* Guideline
* Training Checklist
* Possible Problems List
* Action Plan / Individual Health Care Plan (if needed for additional information for care)

**Medical Control**

The medical advisor of the catheterization administrative guideline is the Plano ISD’s medical officer. The medical officer will direct the following:

* Medical direction in formulating the guideline.
* Review and approve the above.
* Evaluation as needed.

**Person Responsible**

Registered Nurse

Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) as trained by Registered Nurse

**Training**

* Registered Nurse is the person responsible for the training.
* Training is done yearly and as needed throughout the year.
* Competency checklist must be signed and dated yearly and periodically throughout the year as needed for verification of skills.
* Asthma Training video is available on Plano ISD Training Website.

Procedural Guidelines

**Nebulizer Treatment**

1. Gather all equipment and check to ensure that all medications are available and expiration dates are current.
2. Wash hands before and after medication administration.
3. Correctly identify student who is to receive medication.
4. Check Action Plan and Parent Request for Medication Administration Form (pink form).
5. Locate the correct medication; check the prescription label for student’s name, name of medication, dosage and time of administration.
6. Give the prescribed/requested medication using the “5 Rights” of Safe Medication Administration posted in the clinic and in the medication book.
7. Remove the top of the nebulizer cup and place prescribed amount of medication into the cup.
8. Replace the top and make sure it is tight.
9. Attach the tubing from the machine to the cup. Place the mask on the student’s face. Some may have a mouth piece instead of a mask.
10. Turn the machine on and encourage normal breathing. Have student take a deep breath every 6-10 breaths. If using a mouthpiece, place between teeth and lips sealed around the tube. Make sure they are breathing through their mouth.
11. Continue until medicine is gone.
12. Turn off machine.
13. If student is still having difficulty breathing after nebulizer treatment or is wheezing, follow the student’s action plan.
14. The cup, mask or mouthpiece should be rinsed after each use and cleaned with hot soapy water daily. Do not wash the tubing. Replace if moisture is found inside the tubing. Allow to air dry on clean paper towel. Once a week send home for thorough cleaning or clean according to manufacturer’s instruction or soak in 70% isopropyl alcohol for 5 minutes then rinse well with sterile water, then allow to air dry on a clean paper towel. Once the parts are dry, store in a dry clean bag.
15. Check with health care practitioner/parent for length of time between cup replacement. Replacement may be needed if treatment time lengthens. Treatments normally take approximately 10- 15 minutes.
16. Store medication and supplies. All emergency medication is kept unlocked and out of the reach of students.
17. Immediately document on student’s medication sheet the time given with your initials.
18. Demonstrate understanding that medication should not be given if there is any conflicting information on the forms/bottles or there is reason to believe that there is something not correct, until the nurse can be notified.

**Medical Officer**:

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Physician Signature/Plano ISD Medical Officer