

Nebule to Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) with Spacer Therapeutic Interchange Project

What is this project about?

A province wide therapeutic interchange (TI) for certain respiratory medications began March 1, 2017.

To reduce the risk of spread of infection, adverse effects to patients, drug exposure to staff and medical air/oxygen misconnect, any order for nebulized ipratropium (Atrovent), salbutamol (Ventolin), budesonide (Pulmicort) or ipratropium/salbutamol will be automatically changed to a metered-dose inhaler with spacer whenever possible by an authorized prescriber. This TI applies to all ages and settings (excludes neonates/NICU).

What supports this practice?

Evidence shows better and safer medication deposition is achieved by using MDI with spacer rather than nebulizer.

Alberta's Childhood Asthma Pathway (ACAP) recommends MDI with spacer for all except severe cases.

Some Alberta sites began phasing out nebulizers and using MDI & Spacer combinations as far back as the early 2000s; several regional Alberta sites have successfully used MDI with spacer in place of nebulizer.

For more information on this project, contact respiratoryhealth.scn@ahs.ca

For AHS staff, please visit Insite – Health Professions Strategy & Practice (HPSP) > Resources

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