

TECHNIQUE AND USE OF METER DOSE INHALERS

All Meter Dose Inhalers must be shaken!

Ask the resident to tilt the head back slightly and breathe out.

Position the inhaler in one of the following ways:

- Open mouth with inhaler one to two inches away.
- Use spacer with inhaler; place spacer in mouth (Spacers are particularly beneficial for older adults).
- Position inhaler in mouth, close lips around inhaler.

Press down on inhaler to release medication as the resident starts to breathe in slowly.

Encourage the resident to breathe in slowly (over 3 to 5 seconds).

Ask the resident to hold breath for 10 seconds to allow medication to reach deeply into the lungs.

If a resident is prescribed multiple inhalers, the physician may order a certain sequence to administer the inhalers or special instructions may be on the MAR.

Proper spacing of puffs and different inhalers is important for the maximal effectiveness of the medication.

- Wait one minute between “puffs” for multiple inhalations of the same medication.
- Wait a few minutes between administering another type of inhaler.

If a medication aide provides the resident with the inhalers to administer, the medication aide is responsible for instructing the resident of the proper technique and dose ordered.