

Patient
Information

Use of an air compressor with nebuliser equipment

Introduction

This leaflet gives you information on how to use an air compressor with nebuliser equipment.

What is nebulisation?

Nebulisation is the process used to turn liquid into a fine mist which delivers medication into the lungs. There are 4 parts to your nebuliser set:

- **Air compressor** - the machine supplied to you
- **Tubing** - this connects the air compressor to the nebuliser
- **Nebuliser chamber** - this is a plastic container into which the medication is poured
- **Mouthpiece or mask** - this is attached to the outlet of the nebuliser chamber

A mouthpiece will be issued as standard; a face mask will only be issued on medical authorisation.

How to use your nebuliser

1. Connect the 4 parts together. The air compressor needs to be standing on a firm surface. **If possible this should not be stood on the floor, as the compressor will draw dust up from the floor**
2. Put the prescribed amount of medication into the nebuliser chamber
3. Sit up in a well-supported position as this gives a better delivery of the inhaled medication. Hold the mouthpiece to your mouth and seal your lips around it
4. Switch on the air compressor, a mist of medication will come out of the mouthpiece/mask. Relax and breathe normally
5. You may take the mouthpiece out of your mouth if you need to cough or swallow but do replace it as soon as you feel comfortable. Turn off the air compressor if you are coughing continuously

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Department

Respiratory

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6. The whole process is complete when the nebuliser makes a spitting noise or when no more mist is being produced. This usually takes about 10 to 15 minutes. If it takes longer than usual please contact the Nebuliser Department
7. Switch off and unplug the air compressor at the end of each treatment.

What is my medication?

Medication	Dose	How often

Never take the medication more often than prescribed. If your symptoms persist or you feel that you are not getting maximum benefit from your medication, please contact your respiratory nurse or GP.

The first dose of nebulised antibiotic, steroid or DNASE, will be given in the hospital.

How to care for your air compressor

- Switch off and unplug the machine after each use. Please make sure that your hands are dry when doing this
- Handle the machine carefully
- Clean accessible surfaces regularly with a damp cloth and then dry
- Do not spill medication into the machine as this can damage the compressor
- Change the white inlet filter every 3 or 6 months

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How to care for your nebuliser set?

- Wipe the tubing with a damp cloth. Do not put it into water
- After treatment the three-piece nebuliser chamber and mouthpiece should be washed in warm soapy water, then rinsed with clean water and left to dry in a warm place. Make sure that the nebuliser chamber is fully dry before using again
- Replace the nebuliser set every 3 months. If the nebuliser set is not cleaned or changed frequently enough you may be at risk of infection

Please remember that you must keep the compressor and nebuliser set clean at all times.

Safety instructions

- Do not dismantle any parts of the machine or plug
- Never use the machine if the lead or plug is damaged in any way
- The air compressor should be serviced yearly unless otherwise requested. The service date is written on the label inside the lid or on the top of the compressor
- It is the responsibility of the patient to arrange for the air compressor to be serviced at the Nebuliser Department at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Cheltenham General Hospital or other agreed service points. Patients from Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury should contact the Respiratory Nurses at Cheltenham General Hospital, to arrange a local appointment. The contact details are at the end of this leaflet. The Trust cannot accept responsibility for any injury caused through misuse or through the equipment not being returned for service by the date stated on the air compressor
- The correct delivery of medication is dependent on regular machine servicing and replacement of nebuliser sets

If any of the equipment does not seem to be working properly, check that all parts are connected correctly. If you still have problems, please contact either the respiratory nurses or the Nebuliser Department and use your blue inhaler with a spacer device.

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Contact information

Respiratory Nurses

Cheltenham General Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 4432

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 5968

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Nebuliser Department

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 6791

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Outside of these hours, please contact your GP or NHS 111 for advice.

NHS 111

Tel: 111

For nebulisers issued by the paediatric team please contact:

Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU)

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 8305 (24 hours)

Air compressor images



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