

Clinical	Nebulizer Treatment for Coronavirus (COVID-19) infected Residents with Severe Respiratory Symptoms		
	Effective Date: 4/20/2020	Last Reviewed:	Last Revised:

PURPOSE

To provide guidance to facilities on how to provide care to residents with severe respiratory symptoms requiring treatment with medications via nebulizer. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nebulizer treatments may be an aerosol generating procedure. Aerosol generating procedures increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. The facility will consider its specific situation, such as availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), staffing, the facilities physical environment and the situation in the surrounding community when deciding whether they can care for a resident who requires nebulizer treatment.

POLICY:

The onset of severe respiratory symptoms can occur at any time in the course of the disease and can often come on very quickly. The decision to accept a nebulizer dependent resident/patient from the hospital or whether to transfer a resident/patient to the hospital should be based on the guidelines outlined below.

GUIDELINES:

1. If nebulized medications are necessary for a resident/patient with COVID-19, the safest practice is for stakeholder to wear a N95 or higher-level respirator AND eye protection (along with the rest of CDC recommended PPE for Transmission-Based Precautions during COVID-19).
 - Facilities that do not have both N95 respirators and face shields should not care for residents with COVID-19 who need nebulizer therapy.
 - If the resident’s care requires nebulizer treatment due to severe respiratory symptoms related to COVID-19, the facility should consider transferring the resident to an acute care hospital and/or should not admit these residents/patients.
2. Limit the time the stakeholder is in the room without compromising resident/patient care during the treatment to help limit any potential exposure.
3. Use a single room or cohort with other residents who are COVID-19 positive with symptoms per CDC guidance.
4. Residents/patients with respiratory symptoms can decompensate very quickly. A resident needing a nebulizer or other airway assistance is likely a warning sign of the need for a higher level of care and may warrant transfer to the hospital or a delay in discharge from the hospital.

RESPONSIBLE ROLE	RESOURCE DOCUMENTS	ORIGINATION DATE	DATE REVISED	DATE REVIEWED
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