ELIMINATING NEBULISERS



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INTRODUCTION Shirley Crawford RN, BN, P.G.dip



INTRODUCTION

• Dunedin-2009: Stopped routinely using nebulisers for Short Acting Beta 2 Agonists SABA, salbutamol in our Hospital

• Used for other medications e.g antibiotics



• Changed to MDI via spacer

What are your experiences?

- What do you do in your area?
- If you have changed to MDI via spacer, did you encounter any barriers?
- If you have not changed to MDI via spacer, what are the reasons for this/barriers, what do you think is needed in your area to achieve this?

Why change from Nebulisers to MDI via spacer?

Research of the time, and recent research still shows:

- High doses of Short Acting Beta 2 agonists may cause long term adverse effects. Patients can become dependent on salbutamol
- MDI via spacer just as effective as nebulised bronchodilators in adults and more effective than nebulised bronchodilators in children
- Nebulisers give high doses of Short Acting Beta 2 agonists (SABA), 2.5mg to 5mg of salbutamol, versus 100mcg per puff of MDI
- Side effects: decreased K+, tremors, tachycardia, anxiety

Why change from Nebulisers to MDI via spacer?

- Delay in seeking medical attention
- Patients can become dependent on nebulisers both physically and psychologically
- MDI via spacer much more portable, this means patients do not need to be restricted to home, and they become more mobile
- Expense for patients, and health providers, cost of machine plus maintenance
- Nebulising machines are a breeding ground for bacteria

- Multi-disciplinary approach, involving Drs, Respiratory Nurse Educators, nurses on the floor, Physiotherapists, G.P.s, patients and patients' Whanau
- Drs and Physiotherapists, keen and on board
- Nurses were educated and engaged through a survey and participation in programme
- Patients and Whanau were engaged through teaching, rehab programs and individual management plans. Respiratory Pathways where up dated to reflect changes
- G.P.s engaged through letters sent out to them

A Survey of nurses showed nurses were confident that inhaling bronchodilator via spacer was just as effective as a nebuliser

Concerns of nurses:

- Patients would not be well enough to use spacer
- Patients who believed they needed their nebulisers would be hard to manage
- Patients on Non Invasive Ventilation (NIV), would need inline nebulisers

To answer these concerns:

- Nurses to help patients with spacer if required
- Nurses to use their usual respiratory nurse skills to reassure patients
- Patients could use MDI via spacer when having breaks off NIV(non invasive ventilation)
- Later found we could give MDI inline if this was required

Clear link inline inhaler device to give inhaler inline when using NIV





Eliminating nebulisers: A respiratory nurse's point of view



A respiratory nurse's point of view

- Challenging at first, patients and whanau demanding nebulisers
- Explanations, education
- Easier once, ED on board, and most of our regular clients educated
- Used respiratory nurse skills, individual nurses had their own particular ways to help patients
- Ways of breathing, positioning, reassurance, confidence, usual adjunct treatments as charted, e.g Morphine, prednisone, antibiotics, NIV, spacer masks for some patients

MASKS FOR SPACERS



A respiratory nurse's point of view POSITIONING





CONCLUSION To eliminate nebulisers we:

- 1. Agreed eliminating nebulisers is best practice
- 2. Used a multidisciplinary approach
- 3. Engaged all stake holders including patients and their Whanau
- 4. Educated all stakeholders
- 5. Provided rehabilitation programmes, respiratory pathways and individual management plans
- 6. Used our respiratory nurse skills to enable patients to transition to MDI via spacer
- 7. Audited and evaluated change in practice

Change Model Kert Lewin (1947)



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