

SAN FRANCISCO EMS AGENCY TRAINING GUIDE

METERED DOSE INHALER (MDI)

In an effort to minimize aerosolizing infectious particles and maintain medication supplies during times of high demand, use of a metered dose inhaler (MDI) has been approved as an appropriate route for Albuterol. For patients with mild-to-moderate respiratory distress with bronchospasm, MDI should be the frontline therapy over nebulizers.

Paramedics have the ability to utilize the patient's own MDI or one that is supplied by the provider agency. When either options are available, use of the patient's own MDI is preferred. Following transfer of care at the hospital the MDI should be left with the patient.

The following administrative updates will be made to the Protocol Manual:

- **Protocol 2.11 Respiratory Distress – Bronchospasm** will include Albuterol via MDI in the ALS Treatment section.
- **Albuterol (Ventolin or Proventil) Medication Reference** will be updated to include dosing guidelines for MDI as a route.

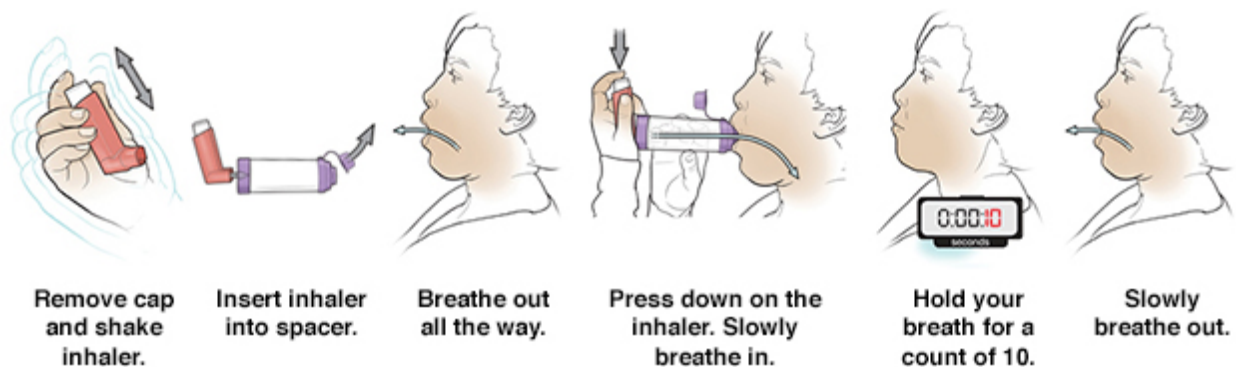
PROCEDURE

ADULT DOSE:

- Mild Distress: 4 puffs at 1-minute intervals, may repeat every 5 minutes as needed.
- Moderate Distress: 6 puffs at 1-minute intervals, then 2 puffs at 1-minute intervals every 5 minutes as needed.

PEDIATRIC DOSE:

- Mild to Moderate Distress: 2-3 puffs at 1-minute intervals, may repeat every 5 minutes as needed.



NOTES

- A spacer should be utilized when available to increase efficacy.
- Administering puffs at 1-minute intervals is important to ensure proper absorption.
- For patients exhibiting wheezes without respiratory distress, consider oxygen therapy alone to treat hypoxia.