

## COPD Units of Learning

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| Title of overarching NOS:<br><b>CHS71: Help individuals to use nebulised medication safely and effectively</b>  | Unit of learning to demonstrate competence:<br>Help individuals use nebuliser therapy safely and effectively  |
| Details of the relationship between the unit to demonstrate competence and relevant national occupational standards (if appropriate)                      | Users will be able to demonstrate competence in helping individuals use their prescribed nebulisation therapy safely and effectively  |
| Outcomes:<br>The individual will know and understand:   | Assessment criteria<br>To be competent the individual will be able to:  |
| Indicative Level  | Level 1 (Expert /Specialist)<br>Level 2 (Experienced practitioner)<br>Level 3 (Novice new to respiratory disease management (including COPD))   |
| The range of nebulisers and associated equipment available within the organisation and their use in the management of COPD and other respiratory diseases | Briefly outline the range of nebulisers and medications available in your organisation to individuals with COPD and other respiratory diseases<br><br>Work with the individual to explain how nebuliser equipment and prescribed medications work and check their understanding |
| The principles of nebulisation  | Describe the clinical conditions and relevant guidelines for nebuliser therapy  |
| How to recognise when an individual with COPD and/or other respiratory diseases requires nebuliser therapy  | Describe the range of symptoms and indicators for nebuliser therapy for individuals with COPD and/or other respiratory diseases<br><br>Ensure optimal inhaled therapy has been prescribed and tried before considering nebulised therapy.                                       |
| The range of information which should be made available to the individual regarding nebuliser therapy   | Select appropriate education and information resources to meet the needs of the individual/carer on how to use the nebuliser  |

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|   | <p>Provide information related to the use of prescribed nebulisers for the individual and/or carer</p> <p>Support verbal explanation with written/pictorial information</p> <p>Consider cultural and language barriers</p> <p>Clearly explain the medication therapy</p> <p>Explain the intended effects of nebuliser therapy to the individual</p> <p>Explain the rationale for good nebuliser technique to the individual/carers</p> <p>Clearly explain the benefits and limitations of nebuliser use to the individual/carers</p> <p>Describe and seek agreement from the individuals for their responsibilities for their nebuliser equipment management</p> |
| The optimal operational requirements for nebulisers and equipment       | <p>Check and demonstrate how nebuliser equipment works in accordance with local protocols, policies and national guidelines</p> <p>Instruct the individual how to undertake a nebuliser assessment</p> <p>Observe the individual during nebuliser therapy and correct any misuse</p> <p>Work with the individual to help them assess whether the nebuliser equipment is working correctly</p> <p>Explain to the individual how to care for the equipment</p> <p>Provide information on whom to contact if a problem arises with their nebuliser equipment</p>  |
| The difficulties users may experience with prescribed nebuliser therapy | <p>Work with the individual to explore and identify any concerns, worries or difficulties they may have in incorporating nebuliser therapy into their lifestyle</p> <p>Using problem solving tools work with the individual to minimise their worries, concerns or difficulties</p> <p>Identify and rectify any poor practice through demonstration and/or written instruction and check their understanding</p>   |

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| The importance of focusing on people as individuals                                       | <p>Demonstrate the ability to focus on the person as an individual through effective listening, feeding back and keeping them engaged to maximise compliance</p> <p>Work collaboratively with the individual to check their understanding on the use, frequency and dosage levels of medication with the individual/carer</p> <p>Identify any impact on the individual's life style and check their understanding</p> |
| The effects, possible side- effects, indications and contra indications for nebuliser use | <p>Clearly explain to the individual the effects, side- effects contra indications and possible drug interactions of medications administered by prescribed nebuliser therapy</p> <p>Seek immediate advice and action to control/resolve any identified side effects and /or contra- indication or adverse drug reaction</p>  |
| Handle information and maintain records related to nebuliser use                          | <p>Document key factors and actions</p> <p>Record information clearly and accurately in line with local protocols in a timely manner</p>  |
| How to communicate in an effective manner   | Communicate in a manner that meets the individuals needs and respects dignity, confidentiality and values their contribution  |
| Liaise with individuals/carers and colleagues   | Present and discuss the outcomes of the nebulisation use with key stakeholders, individuals/carers in a timely manner   |
| Endorsement of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)               | COPD Strategy Group/DH England;; respiratory education providers  |