



**#SafeNebulizationPractice**



**DO'S AND DON'TS**  
of Nebulization in **ICU SETTING**

## DO's

**DO perform Nebulization in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR).<sup>1</sup>**



**DO protect ventilators and other mechanical devices (for example cough assist machines) with a high-efficiency viral-bacterial filter.<sup>6</sup>**



**DO standardize all the parameters in the use of nebulizer system. Place the nebulizer in the inspiratory line at least 30cm.<sup>8</sup>**



**DO wear appropriate PPE safety accessories like mask, hand gloves, face-shield and gown.<sup>3,4</sup>**



**DO use oxygen as the driving gas for delivering nebulized bronchodilators at a flow rate of 6L/minute if the patient is suffering from acute severe asthma.<sup>9</sup>**



**For more information please visit [www.breathefree.com/nebulization](http://www.breathefree.com/nebulization)**

Ref: 1. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/surge/infectious/airbornenegative.pdf>. | 2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>. | 3. Minnesota-CDC guidelines: [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us), April 2020.  
4. Govt of Canada: Infection prevention and control for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). | 5. [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0038/939656/qh-covid-19-infection-control-guidelines.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0038/939656/qh-covid-19-infection-control-guidelines.pdf). | 6. Guidance on infection prevention and control for COVID-<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>. | 7. J Aerosl Med Pulm Drug Delivery 2012; 25:1-14. | 8. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 1997; 156: 3-10. | 9. Thorax 2008; 63(Suppl VI): vi1-vi68; Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) 2015; Global Initiative for Chronic.

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## DON'Ts

**DON'T follow continuous Nebulization. Intermittent Nebulization** (only during inspiration) is more efficient and safe as it minimizes aerosol loss during exhalation.<sup>7</sup>



**Restrict entry and exit of HCWs into the ICU to a minimum.**<sup>2,4</sup>



**DON'T reuse the equipment & nebulizer accessories** unless they have been washed up using disinfectants.<sup>5</sup>



**DON'T disconnect humidifier while placing nebulizer.** Only remove the Heat and Moisture Exchanger, since its filter can act as a barrier to aerosol delivery.<sup>8</sup>



**DON'T leave the ICU without cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces** with an approved hospital disinfectant.<sup>6</sup>



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4. Govt of Canada: Infection prevention and control for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). | 5. [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0038/939656/qh-covid-19-infection-control-guidelines.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0038/939656/qh-covid-19-infection-control-guidelines.pdf). | 6. Guidance on infection prevention and control for COVID-<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>. | 7. J Aerosl Med Pulm Drug Delivery 2012; 25:1-14. | 8. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 1997; 156: 3-10. | 9. Thorax 2008; 63(Suppl VI): vi1-vi68; Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) 2015; Global Initiative for Chronic.

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