Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) Canister

Minimum Guidance Statement

As the situation around COVID-19 continues to be monitored, concerns have arisen over the potential for the spread of aerosolized particles for patients receiving nebulized breathing treatments within our facilities. This guidance is applicable to all facilities and all persons under investigation, as well as confirmed COVID-19 infected patients.

With the utmost sense of precaution to aid in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, the following guidance applies to how to manage and utilize MDI inhalers in a safe and compliant fashion:

- Ensure MDI canisters are **single-patient use** and not shared, even with spacers, between multiple patients.

- **DO NOT** return the MDI canister to a shared space, such as a patient-specific bin in a medication room. The MDI should remain in the immediate patient vicinity in order to limit the spread of potentially infectious fomites.

- Keep the medication canister in the patient’s room under some type of security measure, which could include a locking drawer or cabinet or a wall-mounted work station (also referred to as a “wallaroo”) with a numeric code lock.

- Follow other guidance released in response to COVID-19 concerning when nebulization treatments are the necessary option for patient care.

- Compliance with all other guidance regarding hand hygiene and disinfection practice should continue to be followed.

- When considering implementation of this practice, facilities should evaluate their current administration, billing, storage, and infection control practices to identify process/workflow gaps.

- Establish a process to determine if patients do not have the functional capability to hold and self-actuate the MDI canister, in which case assisted actuation or nebulization may need to be considered.

- Maintain competency records of compliance with hand hygiene and disinfection practices for all staff involved.

**It is not recommended at this time** to utilize spacers that allow MDI canisters to be used on multiple patients. All MDI canisters should be patient-specific use at this time.