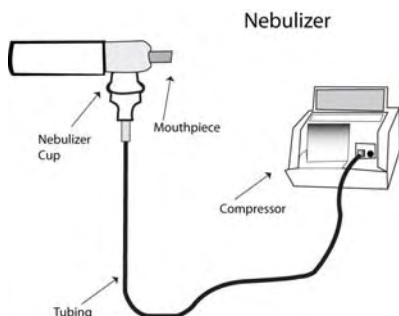


ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS USING A NEBULIZER

The Certified Medication Technician may administer inhaled medications using a nebulizer if permitted by facility policy. Due to variances in equipment, the facility must provide the Certified medication Technician with training on the operation of the nebulizer system(s) being used in the facility prior to their use. Documentation of this training and competency in use of the equipment must be placed in the employee's record.



Medications such as bronchodilators, mucolytics and corticosteroids are often administered using a nebulizer, or a “breathing machine”. A nebulizer consists of a small plastic cup with a screw-top lid for the liquid medication and a source for compressed air. As the air flows into the nebulizer, the liquid medication turns into a mist. When inhaled the medication has a better chance to reach the small airways. This increases the medication's effectiveness.

The treatment can be done with a mask placed over the resident's mouth and nose or a mouthpiece. The resident can relax and breathe normally during the treatment, continuing until no mist is left. Most nebulizer treatments last between 5 and 20 minutes depending on the medication ordered.

