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Interim SOP: Metered-Dose Inhalers (MDI) for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Albuterol, mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate dihydrate(Dulera), and ipratropium (Atrovent) inhalers will be stocked as supply line allows for suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

ED providers may order inhalers from the inhaler panel for suspected COVID-19.

Pharmacy will label and send inhalers. Albuterol and Ipratropium (Atrovent) inhalers will be labeled with patient name, ID number, and directions to refer to eMAR for current dose.

RT will administer inhaler doses with spacer and educate patient. Spacers will not be used for patients on ventilators; inhalers will be administered to ventilated patients by RT per appropriate process.

Inhaler(s) may go home with patient, if provider places a supporting order. These inhalers will need to be relabeled prior to sending home with patient for outpatient use.

Admitting/Consulting provider will use COVID-19 order set to order further inhaler doses as appropriate. Use of the order set will not trigger the dispensing of a second inhaler.

Inhaler(s) will stay with patient from ED to the floor.

Inhaler(s) and spacer will be stored in a sealed zip lock bag and will remain in patient room. In-use inhalers are not to be placed in Omnicells or on peg boards. Place inhalers in a safe location, i.e. lock box in room or a hook on the wall. Do not store.

RT will administer inhaler doses for admitted patients. Nursing will assist in identified areas with inhaler administration.

If COVID-19 test comes back positive, inhaler will be disposed appropriately when empty or when patient is discharged.

If COVID-19 test comes back negative, patient may transition to nebulized medications.

- RN will contact provider when test result is back
- Provider will update orders. Provider may continue inhalers or change to appropriate nebulized medications.
- RN will also inform RT when test results are back as RT will assess per usual protocol process for nebulized albuterol dosing, if ordered.
- RT will assess per usual protocol process for nebulized albuterol dosing if ordered.
- Should patient continue inhalers after negative test results are received; continue to keep inhaler in room with patient. Do not place in peg boards.

Disposal of inhalers: Inhalers should be bagged and placed in a black bin with a green aerosol sticker. Black bin with green aerosol sticker will be located in the soiled utility room on COVID-19 units.

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