Inhaled Medication Device Administration

Policy:

- Inhaler devices for the administration of medication will be administered in line with industry standards, manufacturer recommendations and recognised 'best practice' models.

- Inhaled medication devices include all devices used to deliver medication via the inhaled route. Examples include but not limited to - Metered Dose Inhaler, Accuhaler, Turbuhaler, Handihaler, Autohaler, Breezhaler, Spacer and nebuliser

- Only staff trained and assessed as competent will be appointed to administer such devices.

- The Administration of Inhaler Device Competency must be completed prior to staff members being allocated to administer such devices.

Responsibility

Trained, competent Personal Care Workers are authorised to administer inhaler devices according to specific instructions on the Resident Medication Record.

Procedures:

1. Assessment

1.1. All staff involved in the administration of inhaler devices will be trained and assessed as to their individual competence in relation to the administration of inhaler devices. Written information on the correct use of inhaler devices and information on COPD and Asthma and treatment will be provided to each staff member being assessed.

1.2. Assessments will be conducted by the Registered Nurse, Pharmacist, Site Manager or other suitably qualified person.

1.3. Assessment will be performed by written questionnaire and validated by a practical demonstration.

1.4. Follow-up assessment will be conducted twelve (12) monthly to ensure continued competence following initial assessment.
1.5. Factors to be assessed will be
1.5.1. Optimal inhaler technique
1.5.2. Cleaning and care of devices.
1.5.3. Understanding of the differences between reliever and preventer medication.

2. Administration by staff

2.1. The medication along with the specific inhaler device will be prescribed on the Treatment Sheet of the Resident and instructions will include dose required and any associated aids e.g. spacer, Haleraid etc

2.2. Any inhaler/spacer device prescribed for a resident becomes the belonging of that individual and may only be administered to the resident named on the inhaler container.

2.3. The Inhaler Device competency must be completed prior to staff being able to administer inhaler devices.

2.4. Only a Registered Nurse, or Carer who has been assessed as competent, will be allowed to administer the medication.

2.5. All devices should be labelled with the Residents full name to clearly identify the correct medication and device for the correct Resident.

2.6. The expiry date of the inhaler device should be checked along with the dose remaining indicator (if applicable) before every administration.

2.7. Having obtained the correct medication, strength and device, the Carer will proceed to the resident and, having checked the identification of the Resident with the medication chart and photo, will administer the medication correctly using the inhaler device.

2.8. The Carer will sign the treatment sheet to verify that the medication has been administered.

2.10 The inhaled medication device is to be returned to the original container containing the Residents full name and instructions.

2.11 Devices should be cleaned as needed in accordance with industry standards, manufacturer recommendations and recognised best practice models.

2.12 If the incorrect medication is administered, the Carer should immediately contact the Registered Nurse on duty or the Pharmacy.
2.13 Medication incident report form is completed following any medication error, the Manager, Care Co-ordinator or Supervisor notified and a report written in the progress notes

3. Storage

1. All medication is to be stored securely (ie in a locked drug trolley/treatment room/carer’s office when not in use.)