COVID-19: Nebulizer Use During the Pandemic

AlohaCare is notifying you of a potential concern regarding the use of a home nebulizer during this pandemic. There is limited data showing that COVID-19 can be aerosolized and remain stable in the air for 1-2 hours. This may be a transmission risk if a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient is using a nebulizer.

To decrease the risks of COVID-19 transmission from patients using a nebulizer, consider the following if appropriate:

- Switch to a metered-dose inhaler (MDI) formulation with a spacer instead of a nebulized formulation. AlohaCare covers up to two (2) spacers per year.
- If home nebulizer is needed, minimize potential exposure to others by instructing patients to use it outside where the air is not circulated into the home.

Please also consider the following to avoid excessive use and minimize the need for rescue nebulizers and inhalers:

- Remind patients to use their maintenance controller medications consistently to prevent exacerbations of their respiratory conditions.
- Limit the number of scripts and refills of rescue inhalers.
- Decline requests for automatic refills of rescue inhalers by the pharmacies.
- Discourage patients from accepting automatic refills of rescue inhalers.

If you have any questions, please contact the AlohaCare Pharmacy Department at ClinicalPharmacists@alohacare.org or (808) 973-7418.

Mahalo,

AlohaCare Pharmacy Department

Reference: