Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Using inhalers with spacers

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Last modified date: **12th November 2026**

Using Inhalers with Spacers

Patient Information

Child Health Department (Rainbow Ward)

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- Version: 8
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How to use a large volume spacer with metered dose inhaler

With mask

1. Remove cover from inhaler to be used
2. Attach facemask to the spacer device
3. Shake the inhaler
4. Insert inhaler into spacer device
5. Tip spacer to 45° angle or more to open valve
6. Apply mask to child’s face ensuring a good covering of nose and mouth
7. Press inhaler canister
8. Count to 15 slowly (around 30 seconds)
9. Remove mask from child and allow 30 seconds before repeating

Note: If using inhaled steroid through this device always wash child's face after inhalation. Device should be washed every two weeks in hot, soapy water and left to air dry. Device will need to be replaced if any cracks are noticed and should be replaced every 6 to 12 months.

With mouthpiece



1. Remove cap of inhaler
2. Shake inhaler
3. Insert into spacer device

4. Place mouthpiece into mouth
5. Press canister of inhaler (metal part) to release drug
6. 8 – 10 normal breaths should be taken with the mouthpiece in the mouth
7. Remove device from mouth
8. Wait 30 seconds before repeating

Note: Device should be washed every two weeks in hot, soapy water and left to air dry. Device will need to be replaced if any cracks are noticed and should be replaced every 6 to 12 months.

Contact Information

Please feel free to ask if you have any questions or queries which we have not covered in this leaflet. The staff will be pleased to answer your questions as clearly and honestly as they can.

Rainbow Ward, Telephone number: 01942 778762 or 778763

Ward open: 24 hours

Please note that we can only give specific advice where we have recently been involved in the care of a child.



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