Nebulised Colomycin

Information for patients

This leaflet can be made available in other formats including large print, CD and Braille and in languages other than English, upon request.

Your doctor or healthcare professional has advised you to take nebulised Colomycin to treat an infection in your lungs called Pseudomonas Aeruginosa. It should reduce the amount of infection and prevent or delay worsening of your disease.

This leaflet tells you how to prepare and use nebulised Colomycin.

What is a nebuliser?

A nebuliser is a device (machine) that helps medication, prescribed by your doctor, to get directly into your airways and help your breathing.

How can a nebuliser help me?

Nebulisers are prescribed to deliver (give) high doses of liquid medication for example, bronchodilators (medication to help you breathe) or antibiotics (drugs to help fight infections) directly into your lungs. Nebulisers are also helpful for patients who are unable to use other medication delivery systems, such as inhalers with spacers.

How does a nebuliser work?

Your nebuliser is made up of 2 main parts, a compressor and the nebuliser.

- **Compressor.** This is a portable pump, which provides power for your nebuliser. It should be placed on a flat, smooth, stable surface. Do not place on carpets or cushions as this may block the lower air vents.

  You will be given a leaflet explaining the type of compressor you have been given.

- **Nebuliser.** This is the small chamber into which your liquid medication is placed. For nebulised Colomycin you will be given a special nebuliser called a Ventstream nebuliser. Air is blown through the liquid medication to make a mist. You breathe in this mist using either a mouthpiece or a mask.

  You will be shown how to use your nebuliser and prepare the Colomycin.
Nebulised Colomycin

How do I use nebulised Colomycin?

**Before** starting to prepare your nebulised Colomycin **you must** use your reliever inhaler or nebuliser.

You should:

- open the Colomycin bottle by flipping the plastic cap off
- carefully remove the foil seal from around the top of the bottle
- carefully remove the rubber bung
- open the container of Sodium Chloride 0.9% by snapping the top off
- use a 5 ml syringe and draw up 4mls of the Sodium Chloride solution
- add the 4mls of Sodium Chloride to the Colomycin bottle by gently pressing the plunger down on the syringe
- wait for the powder in the Colomycin bottle to dissolve
- pour the contents of the Colomycin bottle into the Ventstream nebuliser drug container. **Do not** put the Colomycin into the nebuliser chamber until just before you need it or it may not be effective, as these medications do not contain preservatives. Keep your nebuliser upright.
- ask everyone to leave the room and, if possible, open any windows
- fix the large aerosol hose to the nebuliser compressor and place the other end out of the window. This will allow any of the Colomycin you breathe out, when nebulising, to be removed from the room and prevent other members of your household breathing in Colomycin. It is best that other people avoid breathing in any chemicals unnecessarily.
- place the mouthpiece into your mouth, or the mask over your nose and mouth, and take normal steady breaths. Switch on your nebuliser and breathe in the nebulised Colomycin for about 10 minutes. When using your nebuliser you should sit up straight. **Do not** talk while you are using your nebuliser.
- rinse your mouth with water after taking your nebulised Colomycin to prevent a mouth infection or a sore throat developing.
Nebulised Colomycin

How long will it take?

It will take about 10 minutes for all of your medication to be delivered into your airways. When you hear a spluttering noise, continue to use your nebuliser for another minute. Try and make sure that as much of your liquid medication as possible, has been used up, even though there will always be a small amount left in the chamber.

Please note you should contact the Clinical Engineering Department (see contact numbers at the end of this leaflet) if:

- it takes longer than 10 minutes
- more fluid is left in the nebuliser chamber than usual
- you think your compressor is not working properly.

How long will I need to take nebulised Colomycin?

Your doctor or healthcare professional will tell you how long you will need to continue this treatment, as you may need to continue for a long time.

How should I care for my nebuliser?

You should have been given your own mask and tubing. To keep your nebuliser working properly and prevent infection, the nebuliser chamber should be emptied after each use and washed in warm water with a little washing up liquid added, then rinsed with clear water and dried. After cleaning you should run your nebuliser without any medication for 1 - 2 minutes to clear out any water.

Every time you use your nebuliser you should clean your compressor by wiping it with a damp cloth. Do not spray fluid into the ventilation slots.

Once a week you should boil the Ventstream nebuliser chamber in a pan of water, with 2 - 3 drops of washing up liquid added, for 6 - 10 minutes, then rinse with clear water. The air inlet filters in your nebuliser will need changing every 3 months; you will be shown how to do this.

Will my nebuliser need to be serviced or checked?

Your nebuliser will work better if it is serviced regularly, at least once a year. To arrange for a service please ring the Clinical Engineering Department (see contact numbers below).
Contact numbers

If you need any further advice please contact the appropriate number below:

**University Hospital of North Tees**

**COPD Team**  
telephone: 01642 624395 (with answer machine)  
Monday - Friday, 08.30am – 16.30pm  
Messages can be left at any time and are picked up Monday - Friday at 08.30am - 4.00pm.

If you think there is a problem with the compressor, or to arrange servicing, you should contact:

**Clinical Engineering Department**  
telephone: 01642 624070 (no answer machine)  
Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 11.30am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**University Hospital of Hartlepool**

If you think there is a problem with the compressor, or to arrange servicing, you should contact:

**Clinical Engineering Department**  
telephone: 01429 522971 (no answer machine)  
Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 11.30am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Further information is available from:**

British Lung Foundation  
telephone: 0207 831 5831

British Lung Foundation Breathe North  
telephone: 0191 263 0276

**NHS Direct**  
telephone: 111 (when it is less urgent than 999)  
Calls to this number are free from landlines and mobile phones  
or via the website at [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)
Nebulised Colomycin

This leaflet has been produced in partnership with patients and carers. All patient leaflets are regularly reviewed, and any suggestions you have as to how it may be improved are extremely valuable. Please write to the Quality Assurance Team, University Hospital of North Tees or email: patientinformation@nth.nhs.uk

Comments, Concerns, Compliments or Complaints

We are continually trying to improve the services we provide.

We want to know what we’re doing well or if there’s anything which we can improve, that’s why the Patient Experience Team is here to help.

Our Patient Experience Team is here to try to resolve your concerns as quickly as possible. If you would like to contact or request a copy of our PET leaflet, please contact:

    telephone: 01642 624719
    Monday – Friday, 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
    Messages can be left on the answering machine and will be picked up throughout the day.

    freephone: 0800 092 0084
    Mobile: (can use text): 0779 506 1883
    Email: patientexperience@nth.nhs.uk

Out of hours if you wish to speak to a senior member of Trust staff, please contact the hospital switchboard who will bleep the appropriate person.

    telephone: 01642 617617
    24 hours a day, 7 days a week

The Patient Experience Team is available to discuss your concerns in person Monday – Friday, 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm. The office is based on the ground floor at the University Hospital of North Tees.

Data Protection and use of patient information

The Trust has developed a Data Protection Policy in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. All of our staff respect this policy and confidentiality is adhered to at all times. If you require further information please contact the Information Governance Team.

    telephone: 01642 833551 or email: information.governance@nth.nhs.uk

University Hospital of North Tees, Hardwick, Stockton-on-Tees. TS19 8PE
University Hospital of Hartlepool, Holdforth Road, Hartlepool. TS24 9AH

    Telephone: 01642 617617
    Fax: 01642 624089