

Considerations when compounding medications for delivery via the NasoNeb® Nasal Nebulizer

When compounding drugs for the NasoNeb® Nasal Nebulizer, you may want to consider dispensing sterile saline or water to dilute or buffer the drug to make delivery more comfortable for the patient. The NasoNeb Nasal Nebulizer has a maximum capacity of 15 ml and often a total volume of 10-15 ml is desirable.

Most prescriptions should include saline; however, there are times when saline will cause the drug to precipitate. For instance, when a physician prepares Amphotericin B for injection in the clinic, the labeling instructions include the directions to dissolve the lyophilized cake in sterile water. The Amphotericin B will not dissolve in saline. In such a case, the drug in question needs to be added to the saline by the patient at the last minute, or sterile water should be considered as a delivery vehicle. The trade off, of course, is that sterile water is uncomfortable compared to saline and will cause a burning sensation in the nose.

The NasoNeb Nasal Nebulizer is often used to deliver a multi-drug regimen. Often, multiple drugs can be delivered concurrently, which is advantageous for the patient by reducing the time for therapy and the amount of total fluid delivered. However, certain drugs may precipitate when mixed with other drugs. As a pharmacist, you can help guide the physician when you are aware of the proper dosing regimen to avoid precipitation or other undesirable effects.