

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

When prescribing medications for the NasoNeb® Nasal Nebulizer, it is important to decide if you want to prescribe a sterile saline or sterile water to help buffer or dilute the medication. The capacity of the NasoNeb Nasal Nebulizer is 15 ml. For instance, saline may be added to a drug to buffer the drug to make it more comfortable for the patient or to dilute it to reduce an unpleasant or strong odor.

Saline or sterile water should be chosen based on what is compatible with the drug formulation, which your pharmacist can help determine which is appropriate. Saline or water may precipitate some drugs out of solution or suspension. For instance, when you prepare Amphotericin B for injection, the labeling instructs you to dissolve the lyophilized cake with sterile water as 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. Ask your pharmacist how to write these prescriptions if you are not sure. They can help you determine the best method to deliver the drugs via the NasoNeb Nasal Nebulizer, minimizing the fluid delivered and making it easy for your patients to stay on their therapeutic regimen.