

P008

ASTHMA and VENTOLIN

Asthma and use of Ventolin

Asthma is a disorder of the smaller airways of the lungs. People with asthma have sensitive airways which can narrow when exposed to certain 'triggers', leading to difficulty in breathing. A personal Asthma plan is developed in conjunction with the Customer/Client and is overseen by a health practitioner. The plan is to include actions on any incident that is outside the scope of practice or any situation and or emergency. A Doctor or Clinical Nurse is to be contacted immediately for guidance and assistance. All incidents are to be documented.

- If the Customer has a personal written asthma action plan, then that plan should be followed.
- If a Customer has any signs of a severe asthma attack, call an ambulance straight away and follow the Asthma First Aid Plan while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.
- Sit the person comfortably upright. Be calm and reassuring. Do not leave the person alone.
- Without delay give four separate puffs of a "reliever".
- The medication is best given one puff at a time via a spacer device. Ask the person to take four breaths from the spacer after each puff of medication.
- Wait four minutes. If there is little or no improvement give another four puffs.
- If there is still no improvement, call an ambulance immediately.
- Keep giving four puffs every four minutes until the ambulance arrives.
- If a spacer is not available, simply use the inhaler. Use the victim's own inhaler if possible. If not, use the first aid kit inhaler if available or borrow one from someone else.

Lifestyle Attendants must:

- Follow the plan as provided by the service provider
- Report to their supervisor of any changes or variations for advice
- Not change the plan
- Know asthma plan for client and make sure to inform service provider if needs review or any changes.
- Complete competency training and assessment in the task by the service provider.