

Get the Facts about Nebulizer Therapy for Long-Term COPD Maintenance

MYTH: Nebulizer therapy is only for short-acting use in emergencies and should only be used only as needed.

FACT: Long-acting bronchodilators, including long-acting beta agonists (LABA) and long-acting muscarinic antagonists (LAMA), can be delivered using a nebulizer and may be a better option for long-term maintenance in some patients with COPD.



MYTH: Most patients with COPD can effectively use inhalers for ongoing therapy.

FACT: The best delivery device for inhaled COPD medicine should be based on individual factors, such as the availability of the medicine, cost, and patient's ability to use the device correctly. For some patients with COPD, nebulizers are the best solution.



MYTH: Hand-held inhalers are always the right choice for everyday use.

FACT: Some patients with COPD can't use hand-held inhalers because they can't coordinate the hand-breath balance needed or are cognitively impaired. Nebulizers are an ideal solution for patients with physical or cognitive impairments to appropriately and effectively deliver medication.



MYTH: Nebulizer therapy is inconvenient because it takes more time, is noisy, not portable, and requires a lot of maintenance.

FACT: While nebulizers take a little more time than inhalers, they are not difficult or time-consuming to use. They are not noisy anymore, and there are new portable and battery-operated nebulizers available for patients on the go. Maintenance is as easy as rinsing and drying the equipment. This means that nebulizers offer a strong option for COPD maintenance therapy.

MYTH: Nebulizer therapy is expensive and not reimbursed by Medicare.

FACT: Nebulizers are often a more cost-effective option for long-term inhaled therapy. Medicare Part B covers 80% of the costs for the nebulizer equipment, compressor, accessories, and medications.



MYTH: Nebulizers are less effective than inhalers for delivering long-acting COPD medicines.

FACT: Studies show that nebulizers are as effective, and sometime more effective, than MDIs and DPIs for delivering long-acting COPD medicines. In fact, nebulizers provide greater improvement in lung function for older patients with COPD and those with severe COPD.

