Inhaler technique

Device-specific checklists

Use these checklists to teach, check and/or confirm the way your patients use their inhalers. Assess patients' inhaler technique at every opportunity.

Pressurised metered-dose inhaler (pMDI)	pMDI & spacer (single breath)	pMDI & spacer (tidal breathing)**	Accuhaler	Aerolizer	Autohaler
1. Remove cap 2. Check dose counter (if applicable) 3. Hold inhaler upright and shake well 4. Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler 5. Put mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form good seal 6. Breathe in slowly through mouth and, at the same time, press down firmly on canister 7. Keep breathing in slowly and deeply 8. Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable 9. While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth 10. Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler 11. If an extra dose is needed, repeat steps 2 to 10 12. Replace cap	1. Assemble spacer* (if necessary) 2. Remove inhaler cap 3. Check dose counter (if applicable) 4. Hold inhaler upright and shake well 5. Insert inhaler upright into spacer 6. Put mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form good seal 7. Breathe out gently, into the spacer 8. Hold spacer level and press down firmly on inhaler canister once 9. Breathe in slowly and deeply 10. Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable 11. While holding breath, remove spacer from mouth 12. Breathe out gently 13. Remove inhaler from spacer 14. If an extra dose is needed, repeat steps 3 to 13 15. Replace cap and disassemble spacer	1. Assemble spacer* (if necessary) 2. Remove inhaler cap 3. Check dose counter (if applicable) 4. Hold inhaler upright and shake well 5. Insert inhaler upright into spacer 6. Put mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form good seal 7. Breathe out gently, into the spacer 8. Hold spacer level and press down firmly on inhaler canister once 9. Breathe in and out normally for 3 or 4 breaths 10. Remove spacer from mouth 11. Breathe out gently 12. Remove inhaler from spacer 13. If an extra dose is needed, repeat steps 3 to 12 14. Replace cap and disassemble spacer	 Check dose counter Open cover using thumb grip Hold horizontally, load dose by sliding lever until it clicks Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler Place mouthpiece in mouth and close lips to form a good seal, keep inhaler horizontal Breathe in steadily and deeply Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler If an extra dose is prescribed repeat steps 3 to 9 Close cover to click shut 	1. Remove cap 2. Hold base and twist mouthpiece to open (follow arrows) 3. Remove capsule from blister and place in chamber 4. Close mouthpiece 5. Press side buttons in together once and release 6. Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler 7. Place mouthpiece in mouth and close lips to form a good seal, keep inhaler horizontal 8. Breathe in quickly and deeply 9. Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable 10. While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth 11. Breathe out gently 12. Open mouthpiece to check if capsule is empty 13. If powder remains repeat steps 6 to 11 14. Open mouthpiece and remove capsule 15. Close mouthpiece and cap	 Remove cap Hold inhaler upright and shake well Push lever up Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler Put mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form good seal Breathe in slowly and deeply. Keep breathing in after hearing click Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler Push lever down If an extra dose is needed, repeat steps 2 to 10 Replace cap

^{*} New plastic spacers should be prewashed in warm water and dishwashing detergent (without rinsing), and air-dried before first use.

^{**} Tidal breathing can be used for young children or during acute flare-ups.

Not generally recommended

Breezhaler	Ellipta	Genuair	Handihaler	Respimat	Turbuhaler
			0		
 Remove cap Flip mouthpiece to open Remove capsule from blister and place in chamber Close mouthpiece until it clicks Press side buttons in once and release (do not shake) Breathe out gently, away from inhaler Put mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form good seal Breathe in quickly and steadily, so capsule vibrates Hold breath for about 5 seconds, or as long as comfortable While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth Breathe out gently, away from inhaler Open mouthpiece and remove capsule If more than one dose is needed, repeat steps 3-12 Close mouthpiece and cap 	1. Check dose counter 2. Slide the cover down until you hear a click (do not shake) 3. Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler 4. Place mouthpiece in mouth and close lips to form a good seal. Do not cover air vent 5. Breathe in steadily and deeply 6. Hold breath for 5 seconds or as long as comfortable 7. While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth 8. Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler 9. Slide the cover upwards as far as it will go, to cover the mouthpiece	1. Check dose counter 2. Remove cap by squeezing arrows and pulling 3. Hold inhaler so large coloured button is facing straight up 4. Without tilting inhaler, press and release the button 5. Check control window has changed to green 6. Breathe out gently, away from inhaler 7. Place mouthpiece in mouth and close lips to form a good seal. Keep inhaler horizontal 8. Breathe in strongly and deeply. Keep breathing in after click is heard 9. Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable 10. While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth. 11. Breathe out gently, away from inhaler. 12. Check control window has changed to red. 13. Replace cap	 Open cap Flip open mouthpiece Remove capsule from blister and place in chamber Close mouthpiece until it clicks Press green piercing button in once and release (do not shake) Breathe out gently, away from inhaler Place mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form a good seal Breathe in slowly and deeply, so capsule vibrates Keep breathing in as long as comfortable While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth Breathe out gently, away from inhaler Repeat steps 7-11 to take the full dose. Open mouthpiece and remove capsule. Close mouthpiece and cap 	 Hold inhaler upright with the cap closed Turn base in direction of arrows until it clicks Open the cap until it snaps fully open Breathe out gently, away from inhaler Place mouthpiece in mouth and close lips to form a good seal. Do not cover air vents Breathe in slowly and deeply through mouth and, at the same time, press down on the dose button Keep breathing in slowly and deeply Hold breath for 5 seconds or as long as comfortable While holding breath, remove inhaler from mouth Breathe out gently, away from inhaler Click cap shut Two inhalations is the usual dose for medicines used with Respimat. Repeat from step 1 to get the full dose 	1. Unscrew and remove cover 2. Check dose counter 3. Keep inhaler upright while twisting grip 4. Twist around and then back until click is heard 5. Breathe out gently, away from the inhaler 6. Place mouthpiece between teeth without biting and close lips to form a good seal. Do not cover air vents 7. Breathe in strongly and deeply 8. Hold breath for about 5 seconds or as long as comfortable 9. Remove inhaler from mouth 10. Breathe out gently away from the inhaler 11. If an extra dose is needed, repeat steps 2 to 10 12. Replace cover



