



## EMS Use of Bronchodilators during COVID-19 Pandemic

The supply of metered dose inhalers (MDIs) is becoming limited at some hospitals in the region. This is due to the increased use of these devices as an alternative to the nebulizer treatments that EMS providers and emergency department personnel would typically use in the treatment of respiratory issues. The use of nebulizers is being discouraged due to the aerosol that is generated during this procedure.

If you are transporting a patient to the hospital and they are in need of a nebulizer treatment, consider having the patient use their own rescue inhaler instead of administering a nebulizer treatment in the confines of the patient compartment of your ambulance. **Additionally, please have the patient bring their inhalers to the hospital as well.** They may be further medicated using their own MDIs during their stay as this will help to preserve the supply of MDIs remaining in some hospital pharmacies.

### MDI equivalent dosages of common nebulized treatments

*Consult Medical Command for specific orders*

Medication	Solution (Nebulizer dosage)	MDI equivalent dosage
Albuterol	2.5 mg	3-5 puffs
Albuterol	5 mg	5-10 puffs
Ipratropium bromide	0.25 mg	2 puffs
Ipratropium bromide	0.5 mg	4 puffs
Budesonide	0.25 mg	2 puffs
Budesonide	0.5 mg	4 puffs