

TIP SHEET: PATIENT INTERFACE ISSUES

POSSIBLE ISSUES

1. Patient is unable to hold mouthpiece securely with lips., increasing risk of contamination.
2. Patient is uncomfortable using a nose clip, increasing risk of contamination.
3. Face mask doesn't fit securely, increasing risk of contamination.
4. Dosing is slower using a face mask.

SOLUTIONS

- ◆ If a patient is unable to hold a straight mouthpiece securely, contamination from the corners of the mouth is possible and dosing may be slower. The scuba style Safety Shield™ Mouthpiece may be used. It features teeth grips, covers the corners of the mouth and includes a snap on cap to catch saliva during removal for a quicker and safer disposal. **Note:** A nose clip, placed properly to prevent leakage and possible contamination, should always be worn when using any mouthpiece.
- ◆ For patients unable to tolerate a nose clip and/or mouthpiece, an air-cushioned face mask may be used. To properly place a face mask over a patient's nose and mouth, place it on the bridge of the nose and carefully roll it downward making sure it seals securely around the edges. If necessary, a face mask harness may be used to keep the face mask in place during the procedure. **Note:** When using a face mask, encourage the patient to breathe through his/her mouth. Nose breathing will slow the buildup of activity because the hairs in the nose are a very efficient filter and will strip particles from the air. Breathing through the mouth will make the accumulation of activity in the lungs nearly as fast as using a mouthpiece. It's a good practice to wipe the patient's face with a damp cloth following the procedure as air flow from the nebulizer combined with a patient's breath may provide an opportunity for radioactivity to settle on a patient's face.

If these instructions are followed, patient compliance should improve and the risk of contamination should decrease. If further assistance is needed, please contact us. As always, we're here to be of service!



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