OSCE checklist for nebulization

An OSCE checklist for nebulization covers checking the prescription, preparing the drug and equipment, positioning the patient, monitoring during treatment and cleaning the kit afterwards. Practise saying whether the nebuliser runs on air or oxygen.

OSCE checklist for nebulization: steps to practise

1. Check the prescription: patient, drug, dose, route and time, and allergies.
2. Wash or rub your hands and gather the nebuliser, mask or mouthpiece, tubing and the drug.
3. Introduce yourself, confirm identity, explain and gain consent.
4. Take baseline breathing rate, pulse and oxygen saturation, and note any wheeze.
5. Check the drug name and expiry, and put it into the chamber, adding diluent only if the order says so.
6. Sit the patient upright and fit the mask or mouthpiece so that it seals well.
7. Connect to the correct gas source, air or oxygen, as prescribed, and start at the right flow.
8. Stay with the patient, watch their breathing and pulse, and stop if they become worse.
9. End when the chamber is empty or as your policy says. Repeat the observations.
10. Wipe the face and rinse the mouth if the drug requires it.
11. Clean and store the equipment according to policy, wash your hands and record.

What candidates commonly forget

- Saying air or oxygen as the driving gas.
- Baseline and after observations.
- Mask fit.
- Mouth rinse for some drugs.
- Cleaning the kit between uses and patients.

Local policy comes first

This is our own practice checklist. Your college, hospital or country may do some steps differently. Where local policy and this list disagree, follow local policy. Drug choice, driving gas, and treatment time follow local prescriptions and guidelines. Use those. You can practise with an AI patient, and try one station free with no sign-up. See also the general OSCE nursing checklist.

Common questions

Do I use air or oxygen to drive the nebuliser?

The prescription or policy decides. Say which one you use and why.

What do I check during nebulisation?

Breathing rate, pulse, oxygen saturation, comfort and any side effects such as tremor or worsening breathlessness.

How do I clean the nebuliser?

Follow the manufacturer and your policy for washing and drying, and do not share kits between patients.

Sources

- British Thoracic Society: emergency oxygen guideline
- NHS: Asthma

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.