Selecting the Appropriate Respiratory Medication Delivery Device

Does patient have any cognitive, health literacy, or language barriers that prevents them from understanding or following all the necessary steps of proper inhaler technique?

- **YES**
  - Consider nebulizer

Are there physical issues preventing proper inhaler technique (e.g., muscle weakness, poor dexterity (Parkinson’s), stroke, joint pain, declined vision, poor hearing, low inspiratory flow rates)?

- **YES**
  - Consider nebulizer

Can patient produce a fast and deep inhalation? Children less than 5 cannot generate sufficient inhalation to use DPI.

- **NO**
  - Consider DPI

Can patient produce a slow deep inhalation while pressing down button? May consider pMDI or SMI as well.

- **YES**
  - Is patient able to hold breath after breathing in medication?
    - **YES**
      - Depending on patient preference, continue DPI, pMDI, or SMI.
    - **NO**
      - Consider nebulizer or pMDI with spacer

- **NO**
  - Is the patient able to produce a slow deep inhalation?
    - **YES**
      - Can patient breathe in slowly & press button at same time?
        - **YES**
          - Consider nebulizer or pMDI with spacer
        - **NO**
          - Consider nebulizer or pMDI
    - **NO**
      - Consider nebulizer or pMDI with spacer

Is patient able to hold breath after breathing in medication?

- **YES**
  - Consider pMDI or SMI

- **NO**
  - Consider nebulizer