

**Are the Nicotrol® inhaler cartridges single use or can they be multi-use if the patient only requires a partial dose?
April 20, 2017**

The Nicotrol® Inhaler is a nicotine inhalation system that consists of a mouthpiece and disposable cartridges that contain 10 mg of nicotine, 4 mg delivered, per cartridge.¹ Each unit of the inhalation system contains 5 mouthpieces and 28 storage trays containing 6 cartridges of nicotine and 1 plastic storage case, along with a patient information leaflet.

Per the patient information section of the manufacturer's package insert, 1 cartridge at a time is inserted into the inhaler mouthpiece.¹ With each inhalation or puff, nicotine is vaporized and absorbed into the mouth and throat. Patients are instructed to use the inhaler at whatever frequency is needed to control cravings. The following instructions are given verbatim:

- *Use Inhaler longer and more often at first to help control cigarette cravings.*
- *Nicotine in cartridges is used up after about 20 minutes of active puffing.*
- *Try different schedules to help control cravings. Puffing on an inhaler for 5 minutes at a time will give you enough nicotine for 4 uses. In a few days you'll find what works best and know when nicotine in cartridges is used up.*

Based on these instructions, it is clear that the inhaler cartridges are intended to be multi-use, with a typical length of 5 minutes of puffing providing 4 uses per cartridge.¹ The length of time puffing per use and the space between uses will vary depending on the cravings of the patient. Therefore, the actual number of uses per cartridge may vary.

Reference:

1. Nicotrol® Inhaler (nicotine inhalation system) package insert. Pfizer Inc. New York, NY. Revised August 2016.