Inhaled Amikacin

Why is this medication prescribed?
Amikacin (Amikin®) belongs to a class of antibiotics called aminoglycosides. Amikacin is used to treat lung infections caused by specific bacteria - for example *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

How does this medication work?
Amikacin can be given by inhalation to decrease the amount of bacteria in the lungs. The main goal is to improve or maintain lung function.

What is the usual dose?
The inhaled form of amikacin is available as a 500mg/2mL solution kept in a vial that can be stored at room temperature. The usual dose for adults is 250-500mg twice a day via nebulizer.

How should this medication be taken?
Take your amikacin at approximately the same time everyday so that it is easier to remember. Also take the doses as close to 12 hours apart as possible.

To prepare and take amikacin, please also refer to Preparing Your Treatment and Taking Your Treatment.
To mix your inhaled dose of Amikacin:

1. Remove the lid from the vial(s).
2. Wipe top of rubber vial with alcohol swab.
3. Using a syringe, withdraw your dose (1-2mL) from the vial and add it to the nebulizer. (Instructions will indicate how many mLs to draw)
4. Mix with one vial 0.9% Sodium Chloride. (Normally a PINK VIAL) (DO NOT USE 7% HYPERTONIC SALINE TO MIX)
5. Take medication using a Pari Lc Plus Nebulizer.
6. If you are taking other inhaled medication(s), please refer to Order of Medication Handout
7. Medication is to be taken___________________________________

After use, rinse your nebulizer well with warm water to prevent build up that can clog your nebulizer. For further instructions, see Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Equipment.

How should this medication be taken?
Take your amikacin at approximately the same time every day so that it is easier to remember. Also take the doses as close to 12 hours apart as possible.

What should I do if I miss a dose?
Do not double any dose. If you forget to take a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next scheduled dose.

What should I expect from this medication?
You may or may not experience side effects. These side effects may disappear; but, let your doctor know if they are severe or if they persist for more than 3 days. These can include coughing, hoarseness, sore throat, chest tightness or wheezing, but tell us if you have any other side effects as well. Although these side effects are very rare, contact your doctor if you experience ringing of the ears or hearing loss.

***Each time you access the vial make sure to use a sterile needle. ***