Asthma First Aid

1. Sit the person upright
   — Be calm and reassuring
   — Do not leave them alone

2. Give 4 separate puffs of blue/grey reliever puffer
   — Shake puffer
   — Put 1 puff into spacer
   — Take 4 breaths from spacer
   Repeat until 4 puffs have been taken
   Remember: Shake, 1 puff, 4 breaths
   OR give 2 separate doses of a Bricanyl inhaler (age 6 & over) or a Symbicort inhaler (over 12)

3. Wait 4 minutes
   — If there is no improvement, give 4 more separate puffs of blue/grey reliever as above
   OR give 1 more dose of Bricanyl or Symbicort inhaler

4. If there is still no improvement call emergency assistance - Dial Triple Zero (000)
   — Say ‘ambulance’ and that someone is having an asthma attack
   — Keep giving 4 separate puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives
   OR give 1 dose of a Bricanyl or Symbicort every 4 minutes - up to 3 more doses of Symbicort

Call emergency assistance immediately - Dial Triple Zero (000)
   — If the person is not breathing
   — If the person’s asthma suddenly becomes worse or is not improving
   — If the person is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available
   — If you are not sure if it’s asthma
   — If the person is known to have Anaphylaxis - follow their Anaphylaxis Action Plan, then give Asthma First Aid

Blue/grey reliever medication is unlikely to harm, even if the person does not have asthma

Asthma Australia
Call the 1800 ASTHMA Helpline (1800 278 462)
or visit asthamaustralia.org.au

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