

Protocol: Respiratory Distress Effective Date: 8/6/2024

Review Date: 2/1/2026

RESPIRATORY DISTRESS	
ADULT	PEDIATRIC
BLS Procedures	
Assess Vitals. Obtain sp02. Oxygen. Titrate to SPO2 to 94% or higher. Assess lung sounds. Provide calming measures. CPAP 5 cm H20 • Titrate cm H20 to patient tolerance. • Max of 10 cm H20.	Oxygen therapy as appropriate
ALS Standing Orders	
Follow BLS procedure if applicable. Consider ECG & 12-lead. IV/IO Access as needed. Obtain EtCO2.	
Wheezing/Bronchospasm	
Albuterol 2.5 to 5 mg Nebulized. • May repeat once.	AND/OR
AND/OR Duo-Neb Nebulized (Ipratropium 0.5 mg/Albuterol 2.5mg). • May repeat once. If no improvement, and Severe Asthma is suspected cause: Epinephrine (1:1,000) 0.3 mg IM • Single Dose Only	AND/OR Duo-Neb Nebulized (Ipratropium 0.5 mg/Albuterol 2.5mg). • May repeat once. If no improvement Epinephrine (1:1,000) 0.01 mg/kg IM • Total max dose 0.3 mg • Single Dose Only
Pulmonary Edema (CHF)	Stridor
Apply CPAP as appropriate. Consider Albuterol 5 mg Nebulized. For CHF patients with COPD/Asthma history May repeat once.	Mild to Moderate Symptoms Normal Saline 2.5-5 mL Nebulized.
SBP greater than 100	Severe Stridor Symptoms
Nitroglycerin Sublingual. Dose dependent on systolic blood pressure ranges: SBP of 100 to 150 mmHg – 0.4 mg SBP of 150 to 200 mmHg – 0.8 mg SBP of 200 or higher mmHg – 1.2 mg	Less than 10 kg Epinephrine (1:1,000) Nebulized 0.5 mg/kg of 1 mg/mL concentration. • Add 3 mL Normal Saline for volume. • No repeat
 Reassess vitals after each Nitroglycerin dose. Repeat the dose associated with blood pressure range every 5 minutes. May repeat x2. Discontinue if SBP falls below 100. 	Greater than 10 kg Epinephrine Nebulized (1:1,000) 5 mg of 1mg/mL concentration. No repeat
Special Considerations	
CPAP is the first line and preferred treatment for pulmonary edema. Aggregative treatment with CPAP is an appropriate to severe CUE evacurbation.	

Aggressive treatment with CPAP is encouraged for moderate to severe CHF exacerbation.

Base Hospital Orders Only

Contact Base Hospital physician for additional treatment that exceeds written protocol