

Respiratory Distress

CRITERIA

For patients between one (1) and sixty-five (65) years of age, who are experiencing an exacerbation of their previously diagnosed Asthma or COPD.

1. Perform an initial assessment and treat priority conditions.
2. If available, obtain and document pulse oximetry.
3. Ensure adequate airway and oxygenation



For patients in severe respiratory distress, call for Advanced Life Support assistance, Do Not Delay Transport.

4. **Do NOT permit patient to walk.**
5. Place patient in Fowler's or Semi-Fowler's position.
6. Assess the following prior to administration of the first nebulized treatment:
 - * Vital Signs
 - * Patient's ability to speak in complete sentences.
 - * Presence of accessory muscle use.
 - * Presence of wheezing
 - * Patient self-assessment of severity on scale of 0 to 10.

7. **Contact Medical Control**

8. Administer nebulized ***Albuterol Sulfate (Proventil) (3 mL 0.083% Solution) / Atrovent (Ipratropium Bromide) (2.5 mL 0.02% Solution)***. Mix unit dose of each medication in nebulizer and deliver with 6 L/min oxygen.
9. Repeat vital signs after 1st nebulized treatment.



Maintain airway, breathing, and circulation

10. If symptoms persist, ***Albuterol Sulfate (Proventil) (3 mL 0.083% Solution)*** treatment may be repeated once for a total of two (2) doses of Albuterol **ONLY** with Medical Control approval.
11. Continuously reassess patient.