



Respiratory Distress - Bronchospasm

FIELD TREATMENT GUIDELINE M-03

INDICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute onset of respiratory difficulty, including asthma, COPD, toxic inhalation, and other etiologies that may induce bronchospasm.
BLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow General Medical Care M-01. For pediatric patients, follow General Pediatric Care P-01.
ALS	<p>MILD TO MODERATE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS: mild wheezing/mild SOB/cough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albuterol: <i>Adult:</i> 5 mg in 6 mL NS nebulizer. Repeat as clinically indicated. <i>Pediatric:</i> Nebulized; repeat as clinically indicated. Administer according to PediaTape weight calculation and Pediatric Medication Reference Cards. Ipratropium: <i>Adult:</i> 0.5 mg in 3 mL NS via handheld nebulizer. May be combined with albuterol for a one-time dose. <i>Pediatric:</i> Nebulized; combined with albuterol for a one-time dose. Administer according to PediaTape weight calculation and Pediatric Medication Reference Cards. <p>SEVERE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS: cyanosis, accessory muscle use, speaking 1-2 word sentences, moderate to severe wheezing, and/or absent breath sounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epinephrine (1:1,000): <i>Adult:</i> 0.3 mg IM, may repeat x 2 at 10 minutes intervals as clinically indicated. <i>Pediatric:</i> IM; may repeat once in 10 minutes. Administer according to PediaTape weight calculation and Pediatric Medication Reference Cards. Albuterol: <i>Adult:</i> 5 mg in 6 mL NS nebulizer. Repeat as clinically indicated. <i>Pediatric:</i> Nebulized; repeat as clinically indicated. Administer according to PediaTape weight calculation and Pediatric Medication Reference Cards. Ipratropium: <i>Adult:</i> 0.5 mg in 3 mL NS via handheld nebulizer. May be combined with albuterol for a one-time dose. <i>Pediatric:</i> Nebulized; combined with albuterol for a one-time dose. Administer according to PediaTape weight calculation and Pediatric Medication Reference Cards.
KEY CONCEPTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebulized medications can be administered via handheld nebulizer, mask, or in-line with BVM or via CPAP AP-04. Use caution when administering epinephrine to patients over 65 years of age, or patients with history of cardiovascular disease. Multiple doses of albuterol may cause anxiety, tachycardia, tremors, and hypertension. With severe asthma, all other measures should be exhausted before attempting endotracheal intubation.