

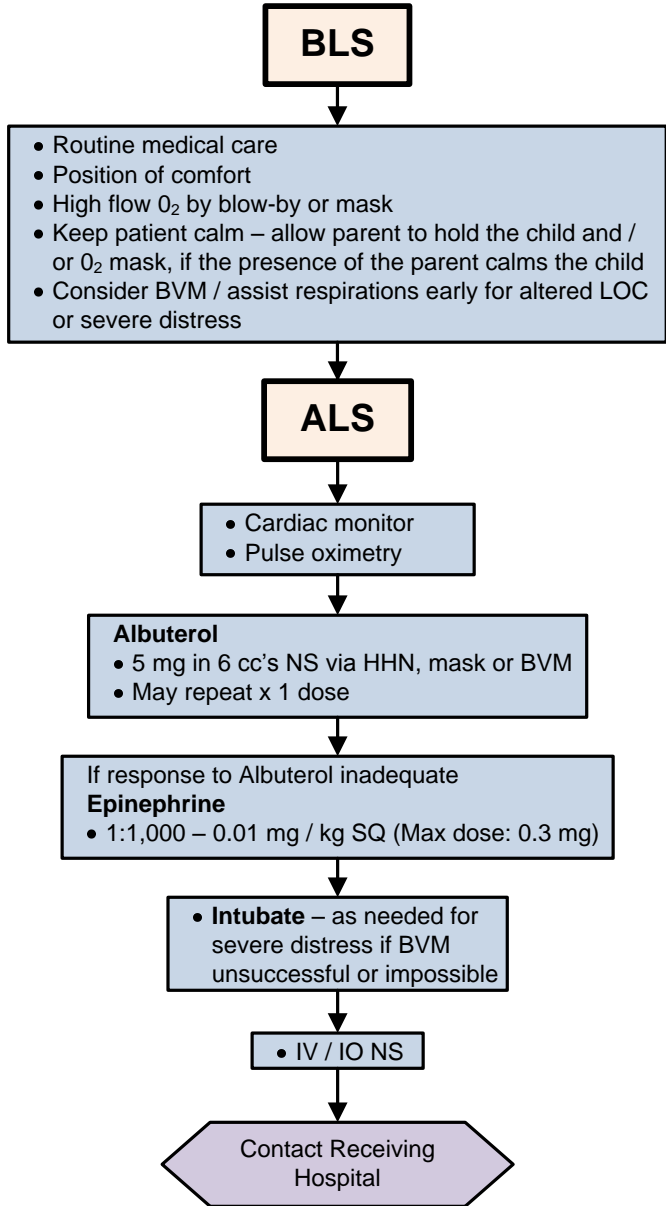


**SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY  
TREATMENT PROTOCOL – MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

**PEDIATRIC  
REFERENCE NO. P-14**

**SUBJECT: RESPIRATORY DISTRESS – WHEEZING (LOWER AIRWAY: ASTHMA)**

- Wheezing – A high pitched, whistling sound, during expiration, characterizing disease, obstruction or spasm of the lower airways. It may be caused by asthma or bronchiolitis.
- Obtain History – Foreign body aspiration, fever, drooling, sore throat, sputum production, onset, duration.
- Do not attempt to visualize the throat or insert anything into the mouth if epiglottitis suspected.
- Consider respiratory failure when a child has a history of increased work of breathing and is presenting with an altered LOC and a slow or normal respiratory rate without retractions.



- SIGNS OF RESPIRATORY DISTRESS**
- MILD RESPIRATORY DISTRESS**
- Mild Wheezing
  - SOB
  - Cough
- MODERATE – SEVERE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS**
- Cyanosis
  - Accessory muscle use
  - Inability to speak > 2 words
  - Severe Wheezing / SOB

Effective Date: 01/01/2010  
Next Review Date: 10/2011  
Approved by:

Date last reviewed revised: 10/09  
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**SIGNATURE ON FILE**  
S-SV EMS Medical Director

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