

**Acute Respiratory Distress**

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Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Utilization**• Indications:**

- CHF with pulmonary edema
- Moderate to severe respiratory distress
- Near drowning

• Contraindications:

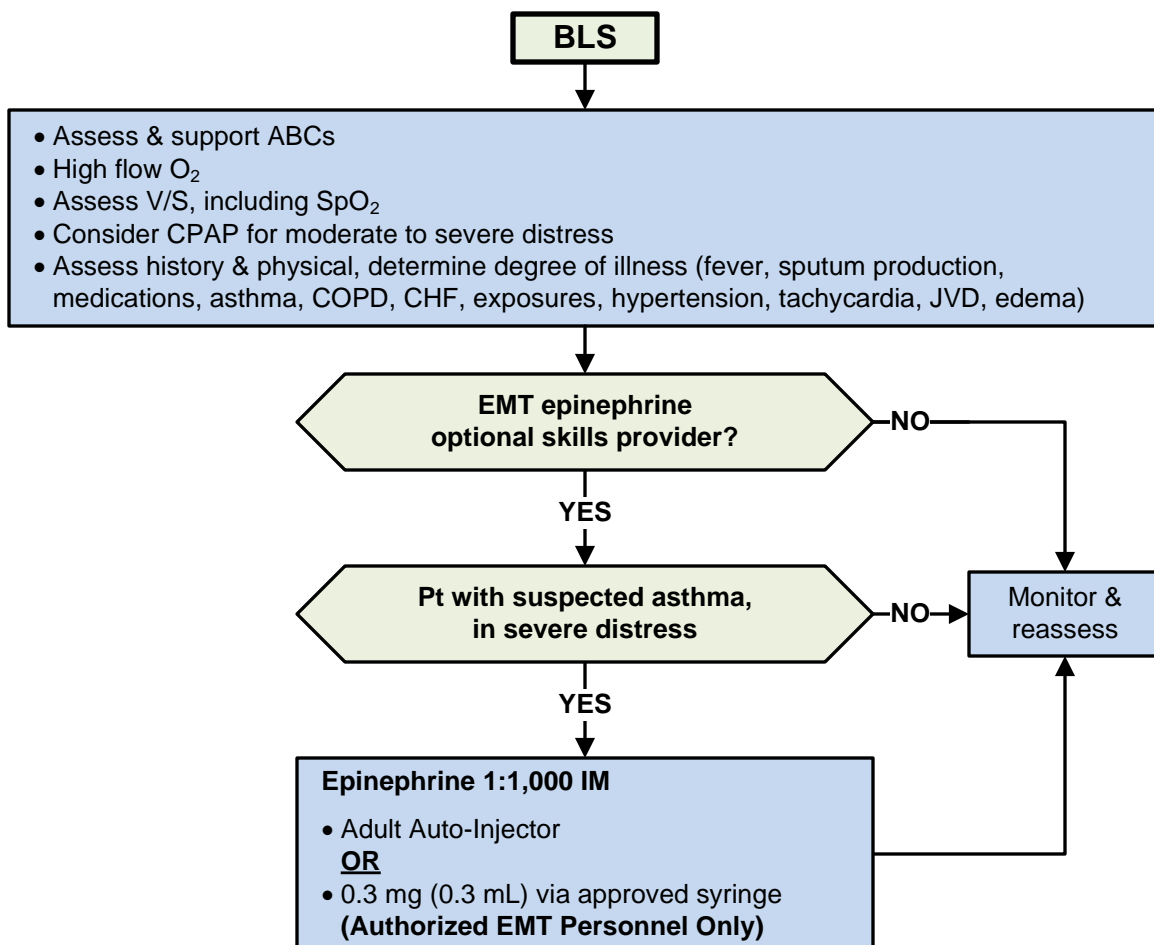
- <8 years of age
- Respiratory or cardiac arrest
- Severe decreased LOC
- Agonal respirations
- Inability to maintain airway
- Suspected pneumothorax
- SBP <90
- Major trauma, especially head injury or significant chest trauma

• Complications:

- Hypotension
- Pneumothorax
- Corneal drying

Epinephrine Administration

- Epinephrine is only indicated for pts with suspected asthma who are in severe distress.
- **Use epinephrine cautiously in pts >35yo, or with a history of coronary artery disease or hypertension.**
- Administer Auto-Injector/IM epinephrine into the lateral thigh, midway between waist & knee.

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR ALS TREATMENT**



Acute Respiratory Distress

ALS TREATMENT

Asthma/COPD

Mild Distress

- Mild wheezing
- Mild shortness of breath
- Cough

- Cardiac monitor
- Consider IV NS (may bolus up to 1000 mL)

- Albuterol 5 mg & Ipratropium 500 mcg**
- Nebulizer
- May repeat (**albuterol 2.5-5 mg only**) for continued respiratory distress

Moderate to Severe Distress

- Cyanosis
- Accessory muscle use
- Inability to speak >3 words
- Severe wheezing/shortness of breath
- Decreased or absent air movement

- Cardiac monitor
- IV/IO NS (may bolus up to 1000 mL)

- Albuterol 5 mg & Ipratropium 500 mcg**
- Nebulizer/CPAP/BVM
- May repeat (**albuterol 2.5-5 mg only**) for continued respiratory distress

- History of asthma with severe distress only**
- Epinephrine 1:1,000**
- 0.01 mg/kg IM (max: 0.5 mg)
- Base/Modified Base Hospital Order Only**
- Magnesium Sulfate**
- 2 g in 100ml NS IV infused over 20 mins

CHF/Pulmonary Edema

Mild Signs & Symptoms

- Cardiac monitor
- IV NS TKO

- *Nitroglycerin**
- 0.4 mg SL
- May repeat every 5 mins

- *Nitroglycerin Notes/Precautions**
- Do not administer if SBP <100
- Do not delay due to difficult vascular access
- Consult with base/modified base hospital prior to administration to pts taking erectile dysfunction or pulmonary HTN medication

Moderate to Severe Signs & Symptoms

- Cardiac monitor
- Assess BP x 2 to confirm accuracy
- IV/IO NS TKO

- *Nitroglycerin: titrate dose based on SBP**
- SBP 100-150: 0.4 mg SL
- SBP 150-200: 0.8 mg SL
- SBP >200: 1.2 mg SL
- May repeat doses every 5 mins based on repeat SBP