



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

Approved by: [Signature]
Will Smith, MD, Medical Director

Approved by: [Signature]
Willy Watsabaugh, Chief

Title: **Treatment Protocol:
Respiratory Distress-
Non-traumatic**

Division: 17
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Pages: 2

RESPIRATORY DISTRESS – NON-TRAUMATIC (Treatment Protocol) ALL PROVIDERS

- Establish level of responsiveness (AVPU)
 - Follow altered level of consciousness protocol in patient is not alert
- Assess ABC's
 - Assist ventilations if respiratory rate is ineffective
 - Administer O2 at 2-15 L/min to maintain oxygen saturation of $\geq 94\%$.

ADULT EMT

- Assist patient with use of personal inhaler (Voice Order)

PEDIATRIC EMT

- Assist patient with use of personal inhaler (Voice Order)

ADVANCED EMT/EMT-I

- If apenic, follow the Airway Management Protocol
- Apply the cardiac monitor
- Consider acquiring ETCO2 waveform and numerical value. Treat accordingly
- Establish an IV NS TKO
 - If asthmatic, consider a fluid challenge of 250-500 ml then 125 ml/hr
- If wheezing and/or respiratory distress
 - administer nebulized **albuterol & atrovent** (1st dose Standing Order)
- If rales or signs of CHF, pulmonary edema, asthma, COPD, pneumonia
 - Consider **Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)**. Reference appropriate protocol.
- If severe distress persists and is asthma or allergy related, consider **epinephrine** administration. *Be cautious of use in patients > 40 yo due to increased cardiac stress and possible ischemia (see Anaphylaxis Protocol).*

ADVANCED EMT/EMT-I

- If apenic, follow the Airway Management Protocol
- Apply the cardiac monitor
- Consider acquiring ETCO2 waveform and numerical value. Treat accordingly
- Establish an IV NS TKO
 - If asthmatic, consider a fluid challenge of 20 ml/kg then reassess.
- If wheezing and/or respiratory distress
 - administer **nebulized albuterol & atrovent** (1st dose Standing Order)
- If rales or signs of CHF, pulmonary edema, asthma, COPD, pneumonia **AND** patient is > 12 years old **AND** able to fit CPAP mask
 - Consider **Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)**. Reference appropriate protocol.
- If severe distress is asthma or allergy related, consider **epinephrine** administration (see Anaphylaxis Protocol)

PARAMEDIC

- **Albuterol and Atrovent** (Standing Order)

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