



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS

Operations Manual

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Title: **Treatment Protocol: Respiratory Distress-Non-traumatic**
Division: 17
Article: 4.18
Revised: August 2014
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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