05-0808 – Pediatric Respiratory Distress Wheezing

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Pediatric patients are those 30kg (66 lbs) or less

- Consider Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) for patients in moderate-severe respiratory distress. Refer to policy # 05-0401 for information about indications and contraindications information.
- Consider respiratory failure In pediatric patients with the sign and symptoms listed below.
- If epiglottitis is suspected **DO NOT** attempt to visualize the throat or insert anything into the mouth.
- Patients **MUST** have continuous oximetry and cardiac monitoring.

Epinephrine Auto – Injector Administration Criteria (EMT/EMR)

- Candidates for the administration of auto-injector Epinephrine by authorized EMR's and EMT's are patients with suspected asthma in severe respiratory distress.

Epinephrine IM Administration Criteria (EMT-OS)

- Candidates for the administration of IM Epinephrine by authorized EMT-OS utilizing Nor-Cal EMS Approved Kits are patients with suspected asthma in **SEVERE** respiratory distress.

BLS

- Oxygen - Maintain SpO2 at least 94% assist ventilations as necessary
- Consider CPAP for moderate to severe distress in patients age 8 or greater
- Assist patient with MDI if wheezing/bronchospasm present
- Epinephrine auto-injector (EMT/EMR approved providers only)
- Epinephrine Safe Kit (EMT-OS approved providers only)

Epinephrine Auto-injector or, Epi Safe Kit Provider?

- NO → Monitor & Reassess
- YES ↓

Suspected asthma in severe distress?

- NO → Monitor & Reassess
- YES ↓

Signs and Symptoms of Severe Respiratory Distress

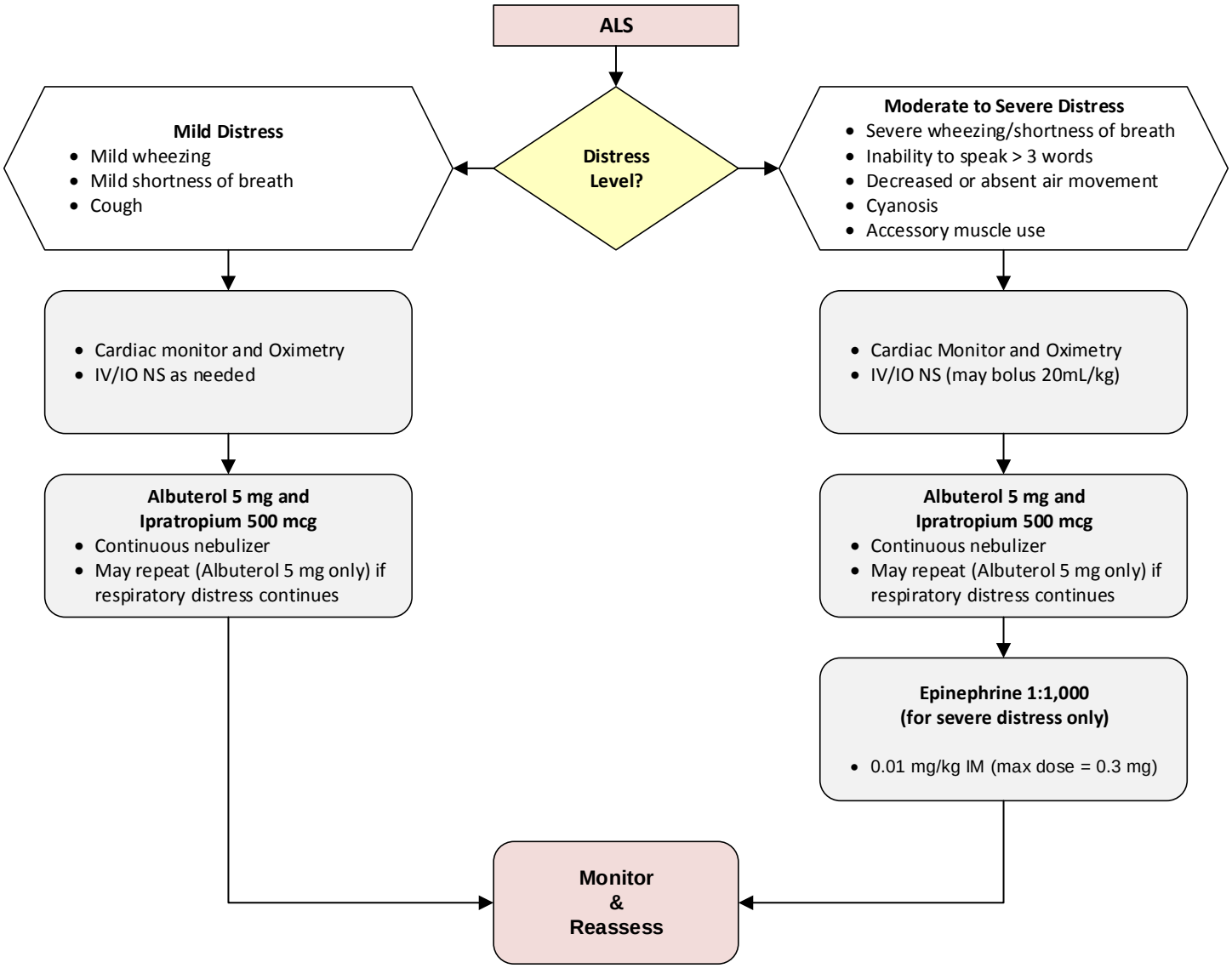
- Tracheal Tugging.
- Accessory Muscle use
- Suprasternal, Intercostal, Epigastric Retractions.
- Inability to speak <3 words/min.
- Tight inspiratory and/or Expiratory Wheezes.
- Diminished to absent Lung Sounds.
- Cyanosis.

Epinephrine Pediatric (15-30kg) Auto-Injector (EMT/EMR)

- 0.15 mg (0.15ml) – inject IM into the lateral thigh or lateral deltoid (thigh preferred) May repeat every 5 minutes up to a maximum of 3 doses

OR

- **Epinephrine Safe Kit (EMT-OS)**
- 0.15 mg (P line on the syringe) – inject IM into the lateral thigh or lateral deltoid (thigh preferred) May repeat every 5 minutes up to a maximum of 3 doses



ATTENTION

- Albuterol 500 mg and Ipratropium 500 mcg 1 time only. Do not repeat Ipratropium.
- Albuterol nebulizer shall be continuous. May repeat 2 additional doses for a total of 15 mg then per BHPO
- If patient condition continues to worsen despite the continuous nebulizer then administer Epinephrine 1:1,000 0.01 mg/kg IM (max dose = 0.3 mg)