



INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY POLICY AND PROTOCOL MANUAL

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RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES - PEDIATRIC (Less than 15 years of age)

I. FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

- Asthma
- Toxic Inhalation
- Difficult Breathing
- Stridor at Rest (Croup)

II. BLS INTERVENTIONS

- Assess environment and determine possible causes.
- If safe remove patient from any suspected contaminant.
- Recognize signs and symptoms of respiratory distress for age.
- Reduce anxiety, assist patient to assume position of comfort.
- Oxygen administration as clinically indicated (humidified oxygen preferred).

III. LIMITED ALS (LALS) INTERVENTIONS

- Maintain airway with appropriate adjuncts, obtain oxygen saturation on room air if possible.
- Albuterol per ICEMA Reference #11010 - Medication - Standard Orders.
- If no response to Albuterol, consider Epinephrine per ICEMA Reference #11010 - Medication - Standard Orders.
- Obtain vascular access at a TKO rate.
- If allergic reaction suspected, refer to ICEMA Reference #14140 - Allergic Reactions - Pediatric (Less than 15 years of age).
- Base hospital physician may order additional medications or interventions as indicated by patient condition.

IV. ALS INTERVENTIONS

- Maintain airway with appropriate adjuncts, obtain O₂ saturation on room air if possible.
 - Albuterol with Atrovent, per ICEMA Reference #11010 - Medication - Standard Orders.
- If no response to Albuterol and Atrovent, consider Epinephrine per ICEMA Reference #11010 - Medication - Standard Orders. Obtain vascular access at a TKO rate.

- If allergic reaction suspected, refer to ICEMA Reference #14140 - Allergic Reactions - Pediatric (Less than 15 years of age).
- Base hospital physician may order additional medications or interventions as indicated by patient condition.
- **CROUP ASSOCIATED WITH STRIDOR AT REST (CRITICAL FINDING)**
 - Administration of nebulized epinephrine to pediatric patients greater than 8 years of age is not permitted.
 - Nebulized Epinephrine 0.5 mg/kg (1 mg/ml) 1:1000, mixed with NS for minimum volume 3 ml, not to exceed a max single dose of 5mg.

V. BASE HOSPITAL MAY ORDER THE FOLLOWING

- For severe asthma/respiratory distress that has failed to respond to the other previous treatments, administer Magnesium Sulfate per ICEMA Reference #7040 - Medication - Standard Orders.

V. REFERENCES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
11010	Medication - Standard Orders
14140	Allergic Reactions - Pediatric (Less than 15 years of age)