



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

(831) 454-4120 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Protocol No. R2
Updated April 15, 2014

Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: **RESPIRATORY DISTRESS WITH WHEEZES (SUSPECTED PULMONARY ORIGIN)**

I. BLS Treatment Protocol:

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. Consider CPAP. (See Policy 5800)
- C. Prepare for transport / transfer of care.

II. ALS Treatment Protocol:

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. If bronchospasm or wheezes are present, administer Albuterol 5mg via nebulizer. May repeat as needed. If heart rate > 160 bpm, contact Base Station.
- C. Consider CPAP (Policy 5800)
- D. Epinephrine: Severe distress (must be status 4-5 and at least one of the following: ALOC, significant accessory muscle use, fatigue, inability to speak, low SA02, poor skin signs) without history of COPD:
 - 1.) Less than 50 years of age without known CAD/HTN – 0.3mg 1:1,000 IM; contact Base Station ASAP after administration.
 - 2.) 50 years or greater and/or known CAD/HTN – contact Base Station prior to administration. If approved, 0.3mg 1:1,000 IM.
- D. Transport
- E. Contact Base Station.

Notes: Refer to Policy 5800 for full details on CPAP