

APPENDIX: 07

TITLE: NEBULIZED BRONCHODILATOR TREATMENT PROCEDURE

REVISED: 01MAY2018

I. INDICATIONS:

- Wheezing or silent chest on exam
- Acute laryngeal edema secondary to anaphylaxis
- Epiglottitis and croup
- Decreased air exchange with a history of asthma, COPD, cardiac asthma, anaphylaxis, or toxic inhalation injury

II. CONTRAINDICATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS (*medical problems complicating the situation*):

- Systolic BP > 200 mmHg
- Diastolic BP > 110 mmHg
- Wide complex tachycardia
- Ischemic chest pain
- Pregnant and nursing mothers (relative)
- Sensitivity to medication

III. MEDICATIONS:

Several medications are administered via nebulizer. Below are the ones covered in ACCESS SWOs:

- **Albuterol** (Proventil), 2.5 mg (0.083% in 3 ml)
- **Ipratropium bromide** (Atrovent), 0.5 mg (0.02% in 2.5 ml), usually combined with Albuterol, may repeat Atrovent once, max total dose of 1 mg (two nebs)
- **Epinephrine** (Adrenalin), 3 mg 1:1,000 epi (3 ml) mixed with 3 ml NS for 6 mL total solution

This does not preclude the use of other medications as dictated by special situations (e.g. hazmat exposures, cystic fibrosis), as approved by medical control, orders from an attending physician, or special protocols.

IV. PROCEDURES:

1. Patients, when appropriate, should have a cardiac monitor and venous access established with bronchodilator treatment.
2. Set up the nebulizer, add medication to the chamber, and set the oxygen flow rate to 6-8 L/min if using a mouthpiece, or 8 - 10 L/min if using a mask or ET tube. Encourage the patient to take slow, deep breaths. Ensure that there is a good seal at the mouthpiece or mask, and that the nebulizer unit is held level
3. Tap the side of nebulizer chamber periodically to completely disperse medication.
4. Discontinue treatment if there is a dramatic increase in heart rate, frequent ventricular ectopy develops, or the patient develops mental status changes.
5. All patients receiving nebulized bronchodilator treatments in the field must be evaluated for at least one hour after treatment for recurrence of symptoms.

NEBULIZED BRONCHODILATOR TREATMENT

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