

**ASTHMA: ADULT
MILD/MODERATE/SEVERE GREATER
THAN 17 YEARS OF AGE
IH Emergency Departments**

Weight (kg)

Bulleted orders are initiated by default, unless crossed out and initialed by the physician / prescriber. Boxed orders () require physician / prescriber check mark () to be initiated.

INITIAL MANAGEMENT (1st hour in Emergency Department)

If no physician available, RNs must follow IH DST for Asthma in Adults

Emergency treatment initiated by RN

1. **ALLERGIES:** See Allergy / ADR record

2. **CODE STATUS / MOST**

Refer to completed Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) # 829641

3. **CONSULTS** As Per Mild / Moderate or Severe (See Section 11 or 12)

4. **DIET**

NPO Sips

5. **ACTIVITY**

Bedrest Activity as tolerated

6. **MONITORING**

- Continuous SpO₂ monitoring / ED telemetry monitoring
- Assess need for non-invasive ventilation (NIV) or intubation
- Heart rate, SpO₂, respiratory rate, level of consciousness (LOC)
- (WOB) Q10MIN during treatment and as clinically indicated
- Chest auscultation pre and post treatment
- Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF)
- Resuscitation Room / Close Observation

7. **LABORATORY**

STAT BLOODWORK

- ED Panel (CBC, Lytes4, urea, creatinine, glucose, HIV Stop HIV Initiative), lactate
- Blood Gases × 1: Arterial Venous
- Other _____

TIMED BLOODWORK

- Blood Gases Q1H × 2 Arterial Venous (Starting 1 hour after initial draw)
- Lactate & Potassium Q1H × 2 (Starting 1 hour after initial draw)

8. **DIAGNOSTICS**

- 12-lead EKG URGENT unless otherwise indicated
- Chest X-Ray (CHEST [RAD]) URGENT
- Portable Chest X-Ray (CHEST PORT [RAD]) STAT

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Time	Prescriber's Signature	Printed Name or College ID#
/ /			

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9. TREATMENTS

- Oxygen to maintain SpO₂ greater than 92% (greater than 95% in pregnant women)
- Oxygen therapy delivered by (mode) _____ to maintain oxygen saturation goal greater than _____
- Consider heated and humidified high-flow oxygen if available

10. INTRAVENOUS THERAPY AND HYDRATION

- Saline lock
- Bolus IV: 0.9% normal saline at _____ mL/hr TOTAL _____ mLs
THEN:
Continuous IV 0.9% normal saline at _____ mL/hr
- Other _____

11. MILD/MODERATE ASTHMA

- Consult: Internal Medicine Respirologist Anesthesia
- Consult Respiratory Therapy if available
- Consider Higher Level of Care – call PTN at 1-866-233-2337

11A. Inhaled Medications:

- salbutamol 4 to 8 puffs (400 to 800 mcg) via MDI with spacer device Q20MIN PRN × 3 doses**
****OR****
- salbutamol 5 mg nebulized Q20MIN PRN × 3 doses** (administer with ipratropium)
- ipratropium 4 to 8 puffs (80 to 160 mcg) via MDI with spacer device Q20MIN PRN × 3 doses**
****OR****
- ipratropium 0.5 mg nebulized Q20MIN PRN × 3 doses** (administer with salbutamol)

11B. Corticosteroid Medication:

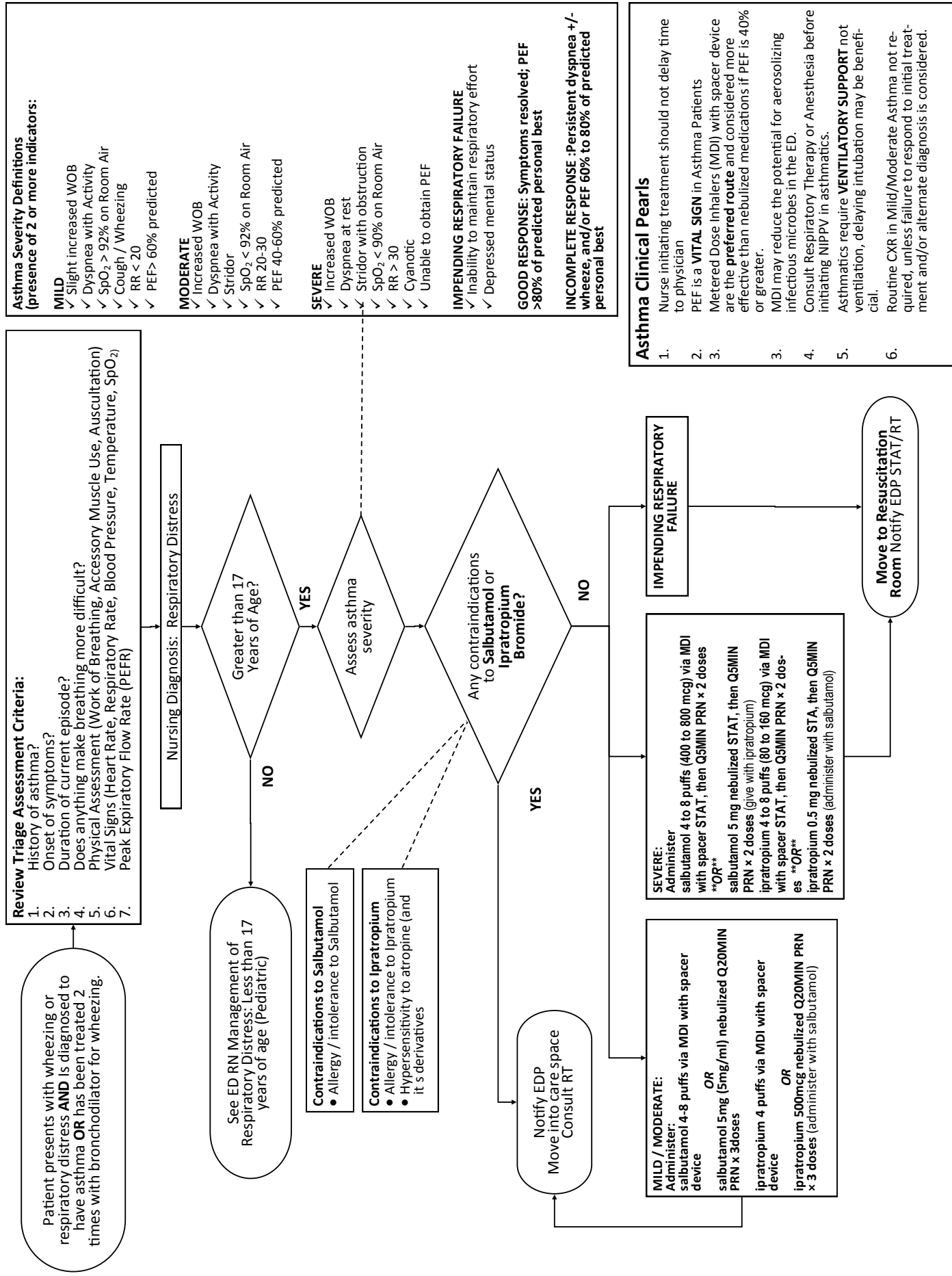
- predniSONE 50 mg PO × 1 dose**
****OR****
- methylPREDNISolone sodium succinate 40 mg IV × 1 dose** if unable to tolerate PO medication (equivalent to predniSONE 50 mg PO × 1 dose)
- Other _____

12. SEVERE ASTHMA (SEE SEVERE ASTHMA ALGORITHM ON REVERSE)

- Call EDP /MRP immediately
- Consult Internal Medicine: Respirologist Anesthesia
- Consult Respiratory Therapy if available
- Consider Higher Level of Care – call PTN at 1-866-233-2337

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Emergency Department (ED) Registered Nurse (RN) Management of Respiratory Distress: Adult Asthma



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12. SEVERE ASTHMA (SEE SEVERE ASTHMA ALGORITHM ON REVERSE) (cont'd)

12A. Inhaled Medications:

- salbutamol 4 to 8 puffs (400 to 800 mcg) via MDI with spacer STAT, then Q5MIN PRN × 2 doses ****OR****
- salbutamol 5 mg nebulized STAT, then Q5MIN PRN × 2 doses (administer with ipratropium)
- ipratropium 4 to 8 puffs (80 to 160 mcg) via MDI with spacer STAT, then Q5MIN PRN × 2 doses ****OR****
- ipratropium 0.5 mg nebulized STAT, then Q5MIN PRN × 2 doses (administer with salbutamol)

12B. Intravenous Medications:

- magnesium sulfate 2 g IV in 50 mL D5W or 0.9% NS × 1 dose (infused over 20 minutes)
- methylPREDNISolone sodium succinate 125 mg IV × 1 dose

12C. If incomplete response to initial treatment with inhaled medications consider adjunctive therapy and:

- salbutamol infusion (or EPINEPHrine infusion if salbutamol not available)

Loading dose:

salbutamol 250 mcg (5 mL of 50 mcg/mL diluted solution) direct IV over 5 minutes

Dilute 250 mcg (0.25 mL of 1 mg/mL solution) with 4.75 mL 0.9% sodium chloride or D5W;

Final concentration = 50 mcg/mL

Continuous infusion:

salbutamol IV Infusion at 5 mcg/min (30 mL/hr), double infusion rate Q15 PRN for an incomplete response to a maximum of 20 mcg/min (120 mL/hr), then call physician for reassessment

Dilute 5 mg (5 mL of 1 mg/mL solution) in 500 mL 0.9% sodium chloride and D5W;

Final concentration = 10 mcg/mL

- EPINEPHrine infusion (if salbutamol infusion not available)**

EPINEPHrine IV Infusion at 1 mcg/min (4 mL/hr), increase by 1 mcg/min (4 mL/hr) Q15MIN PRN to maximum of 4 mcg/min (15 mL/hr), then call physician for reassessment

Dilute 4 mg (4 mL of 1 mg/mL solution) in 250 mL 0.9% sodium chloride or D5W;

Final concentration = 16 mcg/mL

13. ADJUNCTS

- Consider Non-invasive Positive Pressure Ventilation (NIV)
- Consider Respiratory Therapist or Anesthesia resources if available
- Consider Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) see form #829742

14. DISCHARGE

- Asthma Education Clinic Referral
- Community Respiratory Therapy
- Pulmonary Function Lab
- See ED Discharge form #826238
- Admit; see admission orders

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