

Subject: Treatment Guidelines – ALS Personnel  
**Acute Respiratory Distress**

Associated Policies:

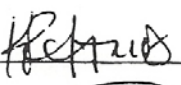
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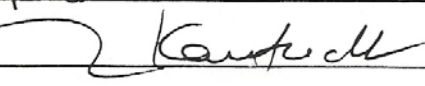
- I. Priorities
  - A. ABC's.
  - B. Determine degree of physiologic distress: respiratory rate > 20, use of accessory muscles, cyanosis, inadequate ventilation, depressed level of consciousness.
  - C. Maintain airway, provide oxygen and ventilatory support.
  - D. Determine which causes best fit patient signs and symptoms, initiate treatment.
  - E. Transport Code 3 for patients in severe respiratory distress. Code 2 for other patients.
  
- II. Acute Respiratory Distress

Increased respiratory rate, sensation of difficulty breathing not clearly due to the clinical entities specified below. May be due to pneumonia, inhalation of toxic substances or pulmonary embolus.

  - A. Ensure a patent airway.
  - B. Position of comfort.
  - C. Oxygen therapy - be prepared to support ventilations with appropriate airway adjuncts.
  - D. Consider early transport.
  - E. Cardiac monitor.
  - F. Obtain 12 Lead ECG, If abnormal findings, treat with appropriate treatment guidelines.
  - G. Consider Albuterol 2.5mg/3cc or unit dose for low oxygen saturations.
  - H. Contact base hospital.
  - I. IV access TKO.

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Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 

Date: 04/03/2013