



## San Benito County Emergency Medical Services Agency

### RESPIRATORY DISTRESS WITH WHEEZES (SUSPECTED PULMONARY ORIGIN)

Policy : R-2  
Effective : May 1, 2010  
Reviewed : May 1, 2010

#### I. BLS Treatment Protocol:

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. 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. 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.