

ED Nurse Initiated Asthma Exacerbation Pathway

Exclusion Criteria:
 1. Patients < 4 yo
 2. Cystic Fibrosis

Inclusion Criteria:
 4yo or greater with Hx of asthma or recurrent wheezing presenting with acute onset of wheezing

1) Provide supplemental oxygen to maintain sat > 92%

Patient Triage Level

Dosing Reference

Dexamethasone: PO 0.6mg/kg (max 16mg)

Patient Weight in kg	General Dose of Dexamethasone
6-8kg	4mg
8-10kg	6mg
10-15kg	8mg
15-18kg	10mg
18-20kg	12mg
20-25kg	14mg
25kg and greater	16mg

Methylprednisolone: IV 2mg/kg (max 80mg)
Albuterol: Continuous 20mg/hr
 MDI w/ spacer: 8-20kg = 4 puffs
 >20kg = 8 puffs

Hour 1

**Triage Level 4 and 5
 Mild Exacerbation (1-3)**

- PO Dexamethasone (unless already received PTA)
- Albuterol MDI w/ spacer

**Triage Level 3
 Moderate Exacerbation (4-7)**

- PO Dexamethasone (unless already received PTA)
- Albuterol and atrovent x3

**Triage Level 2
 Severe Exacerbation (8-12)**

- PO Dexamethasone (unless already received PTA)
- Albuterol and atrovent x3

**Triage Level 1
 Severe Exacerbation (8-12)**

- Place IV
- Give IV solumedrol (unless received steroids PTA)
- Start continuous albuterol with atrovent:
 0.75mg <2yo
 1.5mg >2yo

Clinical Respiratory Score

Assess	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2
Respiratory Rate	<2 months <50 2-12 months <40 1-5 years <30 >5 years <20	<2 months 50-60 2-12 months 40-50 1-5 years 30-40 >5 years 20-30	<2 months >60 2-12 months >50 1-5 years >40 >5 years >30
Auscultation	Good air movement, expiratory scattered wheezing or loose rales/crackles	Depressed air movement, inspiratory and expiratory wheezes or rales/crackles	Diminished or absent breath sounds, severe wheezing, or rales/crackles or marked prolonged expiration
Use of Accessory Muscles	Mild to no use of accessory muscles, mild to no retractions OR nasal flaring on inspiration	Moderate intercostals retractions, mild to moderate use of accessory muscles, nasal flaring	Severe intercostals and substernal retractions, nasal flaring
Mental Status	Normal to mildly irritable	Irritable, agitated, restless	Lethargic
Room Air SpO2	> 95%	90-95%	<90%
Color	Normal	Pale to normal	Cyanotic, dusky