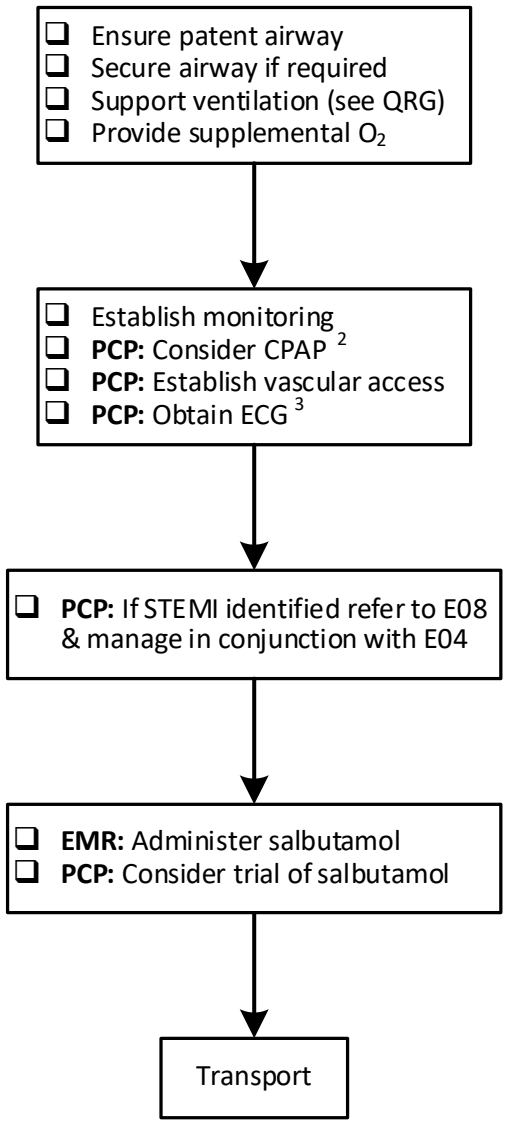
Shared health Soins communs Manitoba	E09 - RESPIRATORY DISTRESS OF UNKNOWN CAUSE	
	All ages	MEDICAL
Version date: 2024-05-04		Effective date: 2024-05-15 (0700)



ERS WORK SCOPE	**EMR:** EMR - ACP	**PCP:** PCP - ACP	**ICP:** ICP - ACP	**ACP:** ACP only	None - all providers

INDICATIONS

- Patients with acute dyspnea, worsening of chronic dyspnea, respiratory distress, or respiratory failure of unknown cause [1]

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- For patients with dyspnea, respiratory distress, or respiratory failure known or suspected to be due to asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) refer to E07
- For patients with acute dyspnea, worsening of chronic dyspnea, respiratory distress, or respiratory failure known or suspected to be due to heart failure refer to E08

NOTES

1. In the absence of arterial blood gas analysis**,** respiratory failure should be presumed with a pulse oximetry measurement of less than 90% on room air or a capnometry reading of greater than 45 mmHg. Patients with dyspnea or distress can *rapidly* progress to respiratory failure despite adequate initial readings. Continuous monitoring with oximetry, capnometry, electrocardiography and frequent blood pressure measurements is essential.

   Agitation in a patient with respiratory distress is assumed to be due to hypoxemia until proven otherwise, while a decrease in level of consciousness may indicate progressing hypercapnia. DO NOT SEDATE A PATIENT WITH RESPIRATORY DISTRESS OR FAILURE.
2. Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ventilation is an aerosol generating medical procedures. Appropriate personnel protective equipment (PPE) is required (A09).
3. Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) with myocardial ischemia, injury or infarction may present with painless dyspnea, and may not have signs of heart failure.

LINKS / REFERENCES

- A09 - AEROSOL GENERATING MEDICAL PROCEDURES
- E07 - ASTHMA / COPD
- E08 - ACUTE HEART FAILURE
- M15 - SALBUTAMOL

APPROVED BY	
EMS Medical Director	EMS Associate Medical Director

VERSION CHANGES (REFER TO X05 FOR CHANGE TRACKING)
• Removal of COVID restrictions and reference to general AGMP protocol for all transmissible respiratory infections