

Subject: Treatment Guidelines – BLS  
**Respiratory Distress/Dyspnea**

Associated Policies:

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- I. Priorities
  - A. ABC's.
  - B. Oxygen per Oxygen Administration Policy # 6030.
  - C. Position of comfort.
  - D. Communicate with transporting ambulance.
  
- II. Respiratory Distress/Dyspnea
  - A. Conscious Patient:
    - 1. Primary survey.
    - 2. Administer oxygen according to policy. Infants and children often tolerate "blow-by" oxygen better than an oxygen mask.
    - 3. Allow patient to seek position of comfort. Anxious infants and children will benefit from being held by caregiver.
    - 4. Use Pulse Oximetry when available.
    - 5. Obtain vital signs and bilateral lung sounds.
      - a. If suspected anaphylaxis go to Policy # 6003.
      - b. If history of asthma and in severe distress, administer Epinephrine per policy.
      - c. Communicate with transporting ambulance.
  - B. Unconscious Patient
    - 1. The unconscious or lethargic patient will benefit from aggressive airway management. Do not delay in assisting respirations when effort is inadequate or agonal.
    - 2. Protect airway, suction if needed.
    - 3. Administer oxygen according to policy.

Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 