Reno County EMS
RESPIRATORY DISTRESS
Adult

ABC's
Treat/secure as needed

Assessment
Vitals
Past/Present History
Physical Exam

Condition Specific:
Lung Sounds
Respiratory status
Skin color/condition

Consider Treatment:
CPAP per protocol as needed

Oxygen
Nasal Cannula 2-6 lpm
Non Rebreather Mask 12-15 lpm
Bag Valve Mask 15-25 lpm

Monitor SPO2 & ETCO2

Consider Treatment:
If indicated, assist patient in using their prescribed medicated inhaler

Consider Treatment:
CPAP per protocol as needed

Paramedic
AEMT
EMT

Apply Cardiac Monitor
(As needed and document)
Normal Saline IV/IO/LOCK
(As needed)

Bronchospasm/Wheezing
Chronic Bronchitis/COPD

Consider Treatment:
Duoneb
(Albuterol 3 mg/Ipratropium 0.5 mg)
May repeat x 2 (total of 3 treatments)
OR
Albuterol 2.5 mg/3 mL NaCl
May repeat x 2 (total of 3 treatments)
OR
***Terbutaline 0.25 mg subcutaneous may repeat x 2 every 20 minutes (total of 3 doses)***

Consider Treatment:
Methylprednisolone
125 mg SIVP

Consider Treatment:
Epinephrine 1:1,000 0.3 mg IM
OR for SEVERE CASES
Epinephrine 1:10,000 0.3 mg IV/IO

Transport
Place patient in position of comfort
Detailed Physical Exam
Monitor patient/vital signs
Transport to appropriate facility
Contact receiving facility

Consider Treatment:
Albuterol
2.5 mg/3 mL NaCl Nebulized
OR
Duoneb (Albuterol 3 mg/Ipratropium 0.5 mg)
May repeat above medication used x 2 (total of 3 treatments)
OR
***Terbutaline (AEMT ONLY) 0.25 mg subcutaneous may repeat x 2 every 20 minutes (total of 3 doses)***

FOR SEVERE ASTHMA
Consider Treatment:
Methylprednisolone (AEMT ONLY)
125 mg SIVP

Contact ER physician for further orders as needed

Note:
Protocols can be combined as needed
Steps can be accomplished in any order
***Consider Terbutaline only when nebulized treatments pose risk of aerosolization of COVID-19***

Revised March 2020