



EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa 2026 Medical Control Board Treatment Protocols



Approved 9/17/25, Effective 1/15/26, replaces all prior versions

3B – DYSPNEA – UNCERTAIN ETIOLOGY ADULT & PEDIATRIC

TREATMENT PRIORITIES

1. Vital signs (including EtCO₂, if equipped)
2. Oxygenation support
 - O₂ by NC, NRB
 - BVM, Bi/CPAP, ETT if indicated
3. Ventilation support
 - BVM, Bi/CPAP, ETT if indicated
4. Nebulization therapy
 - Albuterol

EMD

ADVISE TO AVOID PHYSICAL EXERTION OR ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS (TEMP EXTREMES).
ADVISE PT SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS (eg. ALBUTEROL INHALER)
IF PREVIOUSLY PRESCRIBED FOR SIMILAR SYMPTOMS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHER

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

EMT

EMT-INTERMEDIATE 85

ADVANCED EMT

PARAMEDIC

EMR

EMT

GENERAL SUPPORTIVE CARE

OBTAIN VITAL SIGNS

O₂ VIA NC, NRB, OR BVM AS APPROPRIATE

APPLY CARDIAC MONITOR (if equipped)

ADULT: OBTAIN 12-LEAD ECG & TRANSMIT TO RECEIVING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (if equipped)
ASSIST PT WITH PT'S OWN ALBUTEROL INHALER/NEBULIZER (when applicable)

EMT OR HIGHER LICENSE:

MEASURE END-TIDAL CO₂ & MONITOR WAVEFORM CAPNOGRAPHY (if equipped)

ADULT: APPLY Bi/CPAP IF INDICATED (if equipped)

ADULT & PEDIATRIC WEIGHT ≥ 15 kg: NEBULIZED ALBUTEROL 5 mg OR LEVALBUTEROL 2.5 mg
PEDIATRIC WEIGHT < 15 kg: NEBULIZED ALBUTEROL 2.5 mg OR LEVALBUTEROL 1.25 mg

MAY REPEAT ALBUTEROL OR LEVALBUTEROL ENROUTE X 1 AS NEEDED

PLACE SUPRAGLOTTIC AIRWAY IF INDICATED & ONLY IF BVM VENTILATIONS INEFFECTIVE

EMT-I85

AEMT

ADULT: INTUBATE IF INDICATED PER APPLICABLE PROTOCOLS

IV ACCESS

ADULT: IV NS TKO IF SYS BP ≥ 100 mmHg WITHOUT HYPOTENSIVE SYMPTOMS

ADULT: IV NS 250 mL BOLUS IF SYS BP < 100 mmHg WITH HYPOTENSIVE SYMPTOMS & NO SIGNS OF PULMONARY EDEMA,

ADULT: REPEAT UP TO 2 LITERS NS IF SYS BP REMAINS < 100 mmHg WITH HYPOTENSIVE SYMPTOMS & NO SIGNS OF PULMONARY EDEMA

PEDIATRIC: IV NS TKO IF SYS BP $\geq (70 + 2 \times \text{age in years})$ mmHg

PEDIATRIC: IV NS 20 mL/kg BOLUS IF SYS BP $< (70 + 2 \times \text{age in years})$ mmHg IF NO SIGNS OF PULMONARY EDEMA

PARAMEDIC

ADULT: MEDICATION-ASSISTED INTUBATION IF INDICATED PER PROTOCOL 2G
CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT PER APPLICABLE PROTOCOL(S)