

Management of Respiratory Emergencies Flowchart

The Management of Respiratory Emergencies Flowchart summarizes general management of respiratory emergencies and specific management by etiology. Note that this chart does not include all respiratory emergencies; it provides key management strategies for a limited number of diseases.

Management of Respiratory Emergencies Flowchart

- Airway positioning
- Suction as needed
- Oxygen
- Pulse oximetry
- ECG monitor (as indicated)
- BLS as indicated

Upper Airway Obstruction

Specific Management for Selected Conditions

Croup	Anaphylaxis	Aspiration Foreign Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebulized epinephrine • Corticosteroids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IM epinephrine (or autoinjector) • Albuterol • Antihistamines • Corticosteroids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow position of comfort • Specialty consultation

Lower Airway Obstruction

Specific Management for Selected Conditions

Bronchiolitis	Asthma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasal suctioning • Bronchodilator trial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albuterol ± ipratropium • Corticosteroids • Subcutaneous epinephrine • Magnesium sulfate • Terbutaline

Lung Tissue Disease

Specific Management for Selected Conditions

Pneumonia/Pneumonitis Infectious Chemical Aspiration	Pulmonary Edema Cardiogenic or Noncardiogenic (ARDS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albuterol • Antibiotics (as indicated) • Consider CPAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider noninvasive or invasive ventilatory support with PEEP • Consider vasoactive support • Consider diuretic

Disordered Control of Breathing

Specific Management for Selected Conditions

Increased ICP	Poisoning/Overdose	Neuromuscular Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid hypoxemia • Avoid hypercarbia • Avoid hyperthermia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antidote (if available) • Contact poison control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider noninvasive or invasive ventilatory support