

Approach to Acute Respiratory Distress in Children

ED Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Quarterly Meeting August 23, 2023

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Disclosure

Advancing Healthier Wisconsin Grant

Objectives

- Understand the respiratory surge in children
- Recognition, evaluation and management of respiratory distress in children
- Interventions if delayed transport
- Preparation for the pediatric respiratory surge

RSV virus outbreak: Children's hospitals overwhelmed by sick kids. Published October 22, 2022 Updated October 24, 2022 U.S. FOX 5 NY



In the 2022-2023 season, the overall rate of RSV-associated hospitalizations was 50.5 per 100,000 people. Age Group Race/Ethnicity Site Season Sex Reset Filters Rates of RSV-Associated Hospitalization, all seasons View Monthly Rates 5.0 Rates presented likely underestimate actual rates of RSV. Hospitalization rates are based only on those who had positive test results for RSV through a test ordered by a health care professional; not all people Weekly Rates hospitalized with respiratory illness are tested for RSV. Lighter-colored dashed lines for the current season indicate potential reporting delays and per 100,000 Cumulative Rates interpretation of trends should exclude data from recent weeks. **Filters** Season rate Hospitalization Site RSV-NET Age Group ΑII 1.0 Race/Ethnicity \vee ΑII Sex November December July September October February April May June August March ΑII - X - 2018-2019 ······ 2019-2020 - 2020-2021 - 2021-2022 - 2022-2023 Surveillance Month Data last updated: 08/16/2023 | Accessibility: Hover over graph area to display options such as show data as table and copy visual. CDC Note: Al/AN, American Indian or Alaska Native; A/PI, Asian and Pacific Islander. Download Data



Daily Briefing

Pediatric ER doctor gives glimpse into front lines of RSV surge: 'No space anywhere'

Packed emergency rooms, long wait times, no beds. One doctor recounts how the surge in respiratory viruses like RSV is overwhelming children's hospitals.

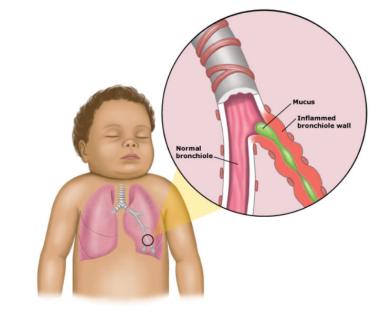


'Crisis mode': RSV surge overwhelming pediatric hospitals

Children's hospitals grapple with a nationwide surge in RSV infections

10 mo girl in respiratory distress

- 3 days of cold & worsening
- Lethargic, grunting with severe retractions, cyanotic
- P178, R64, BP-, POX 81%
- Lethargic, moderate resp distress and pale
- NC Oxygen 4 L/min with Pox 89%
- Poor aeration with CRT >3 sec
- VBG: pH 7.25, PCO2 48,BE -7
- CXR with hazy interstitial viral infection pattern



- Suction
- IVF
- Albuterol with minimal improvement
- No bed available
- PICU consult
- Stayed in community ED for 3 days

UNDERSTANDING THE PEDIATRIC SURGE CRISIS

>75%

As of early November, more than 3 in 4 pediatric inpatient beds in the U.S. were occupied.¹ >100%

Many states have surpassed full capacity for staffed pediatric intensive care unit beds.¹ 2-3X

EDs are reporting pediatric volumes as high as 2-3X as normal.^{2,3,4}

Systemic Challenges

#1: Low pediatric reimbursement + high costs = shrinking services

2X

on Medicaid vs. adults ages 19-64. Meanwhile, Medicaid reimburses at 22% less than Medicare. 5,6



+11%

Hospital expenses were 11% higher in 2021 than in 2019.7



-19%

Pediatric inpatient units have decreased by more than 19% over 10 years; rural areas have seen a decrease of 26%.8

#2: Staff stress & shortages, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

35%

More than 1 in 3 clinicians report at least **one symptom of burnout**.9



23%

of hospitals report a critical staffing shortage. 10

#3: Gaps in everyday readiness for children's emergencies

69/100

was the **median score on a national assessment** of how
ready emergency departments
(EDs) are for pediatric patients.¹¹



4X

Low pediatric readiness in EDs is associated with a four-fold increase in mortality rate. 12



90%

of American families **do**not have an ED closest to
them that is considered
pediatric ready.¹³

Public Health Challenges

#4: The growing pediatric mental health crisis

+280%

The suicide rate in children ages 5-12 increased 280% from 1999-2018.14

0

68%
of U.S. counties are designated as mental health professional shortage areas. 15



+6-10%

Pediatric utilization of EDs for mental health has been increasing 6% to 10% per year. 16

#5: A tidal wave of respiratory illnesses

+68%

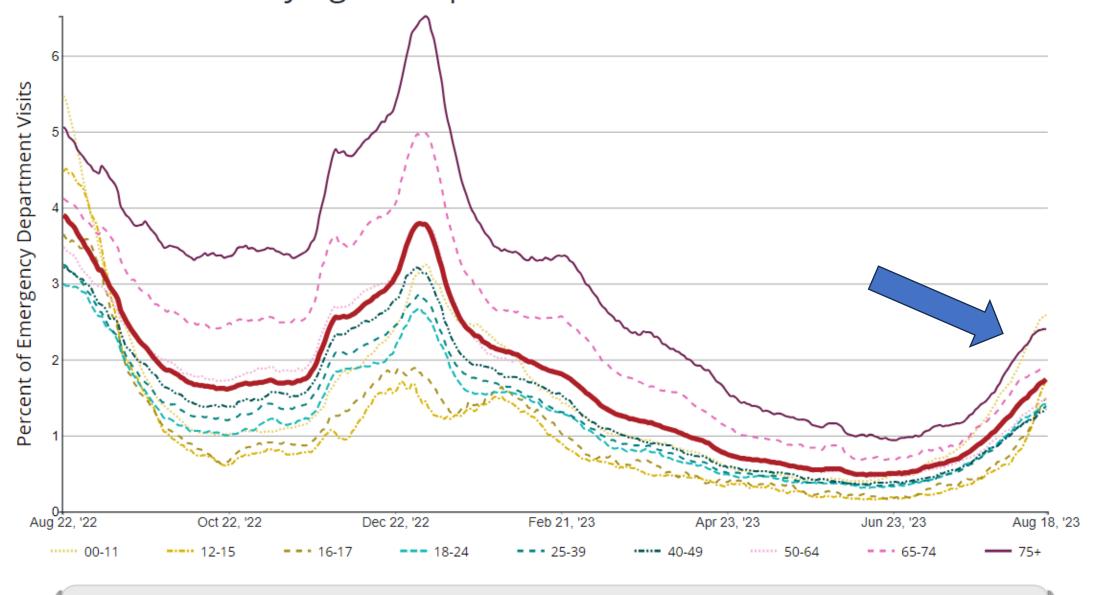
From October to December, the number of children with COVID-19 at hospital admission increased 68%.¹⁷ +14%

Flu hospitalization of young children reached nearly 14% in November 2022, the highest point for that period since 2009.18

+300%

RSV hospitalization among children in November 2022 was more than quadruple the rate a year earlier.¹⁹

Percentage of Emergency Department Visits with Diagnosed COVID-19 in United States, by Age Group



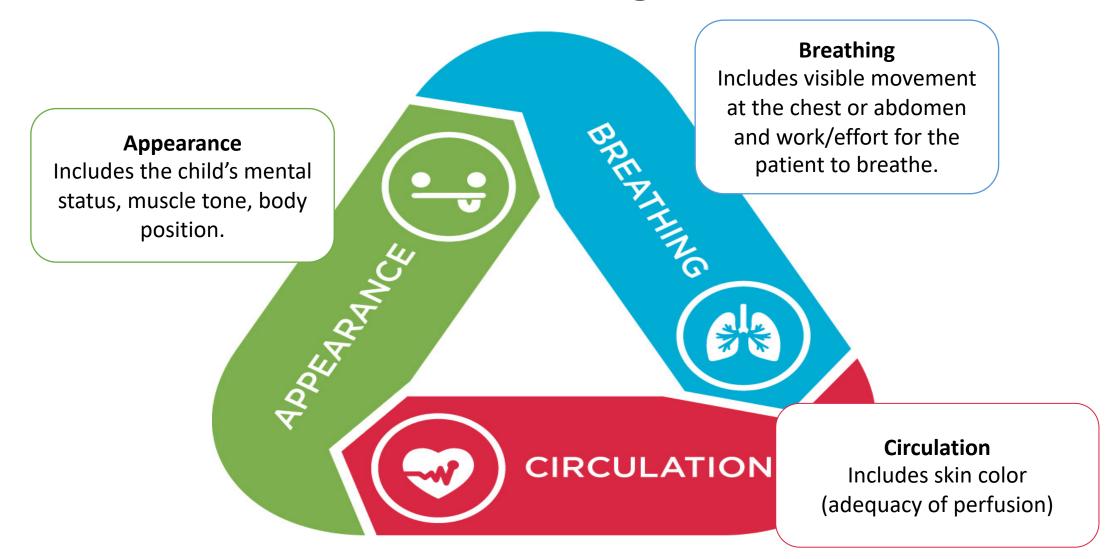


Challenges faced by community EDs

- Pediatric readiness
 - Expertise: MD, RN, RT
 - Guideline
 - Equipment
- Staffing
- Beds

Brief overview of assessment and management of pediatric respiratory emergencies

Pediatric Assessment Triangle



Helpful historical information

- Age
- Previous resp conditions
- Onset: sudden or gradual and choking
- Current symptoms: coughing, wheezing or barking
- Prodromal symptoms: runny nose or fever
- Possible triggers
- Meds and Tx given at home



Classic signs of respiratory distress and exam findings

- Visual inspection
- Degree of distress
- Position of comfort
- VS with Pulse Oximeter
- Upper airway sounds
- Lung exam
- Other systems



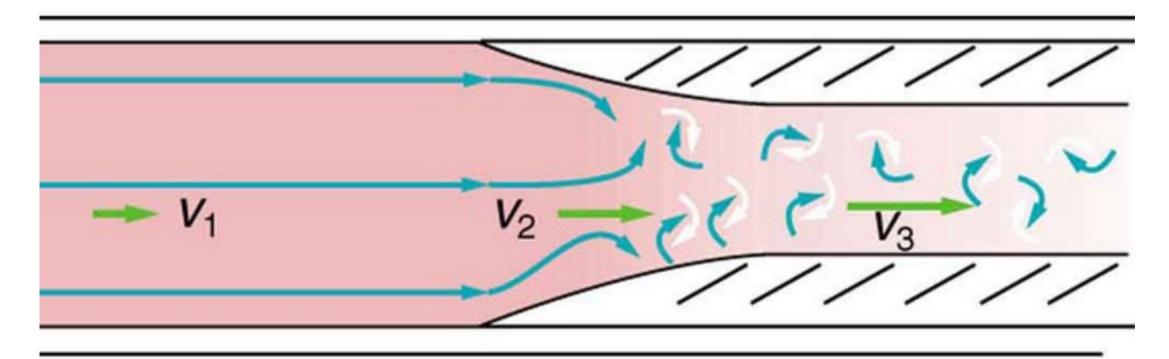
Weight, Normal Vital Signs and Equipment Estimates

AGE	Weight (kg)	Heart Rate	Respiratory Rate	BP - Systolic (mm Hg)	Laryngoscope Blade	ETT (cuffed)	LMA	King
Preterm	<3	120-160	40-60	40-60	1 straight only	2.5-3.0 (uncuffed)	1	0
Newborn	3	100-165	40-60	60-80	1 straight only	3.0	1	0
1 month	6	120-180	40-60	65-95	1 straight only	3.0	1	0
6 months	8	110-185	25-40	65-105	1 straight only	3.0	1.5	1
12 months	10	110-170	20-30	70-110	1 straight only	3.5	2	1
2 years	12	90-150	20-30	70-110	2 straight only	4.0	2	2
3 years	14	75-135	20-30	80-110	2 straight or curved	4.0	2	2
4 years	16	75-135	20-30	80-110	2 straight or curved	4.5	2	2
5 years	18	65-135	20-30	80-110	2 straight or curved	4.5	2	2
6 years	20	60-130	12-25	90-115	2 straight or curved	5.0	2.5	2.5
8 years	26	60-120	12-25	90-115	3 straight or curved	6.0	2.5	2.5
10 years	32	60-120	12-25	95-120	3 straight or curved	6.5	3	2.5
12 years	42	60-120	12-25	95-120	3 straight or curved	6.5	3	3
14 years	50	60-120	12-18	100-130	3 straight or curved	6.5	4	4



"Don't worry. He is not wheezing!"

Sound



Laminar

Turbulent



Air Entry

Beath sound





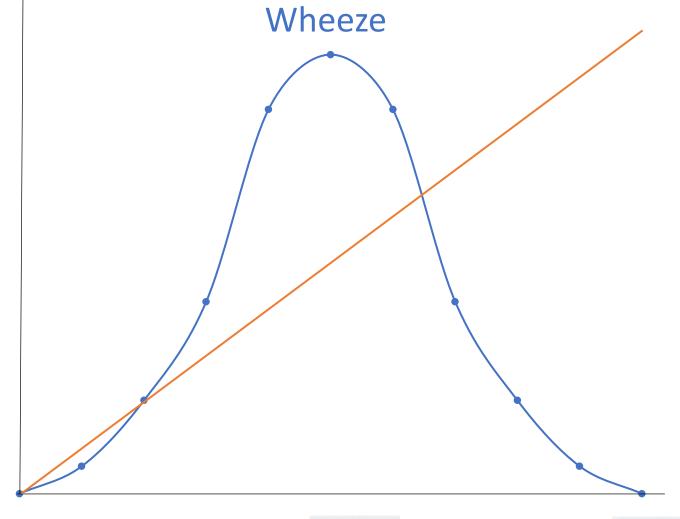
Wheeze





Air Entry

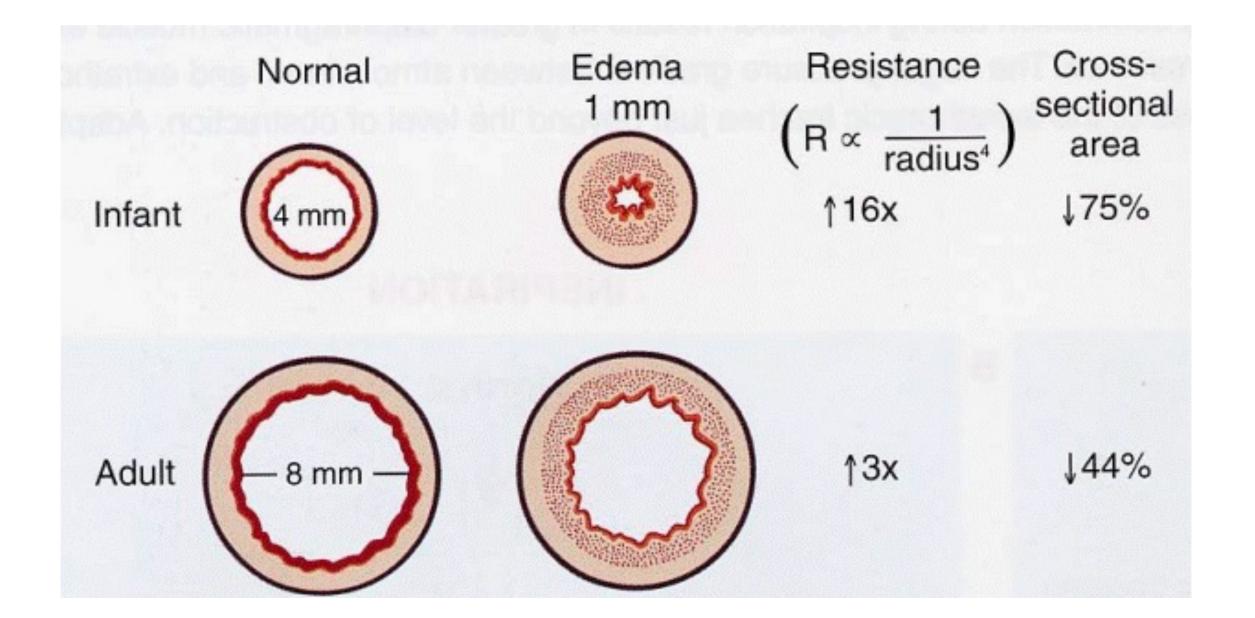
Beath sound











	Asthma	Bronchiolitis	Croup
Age			
Etiology			
Pathophysiology			
Problem location			
Clinical findings			
Treatment			

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Age	> 2 YO	< 2 YO	6 mo – 3 YO
Etiology			
Pathophysiology			
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Clinical findings						
Treatment						

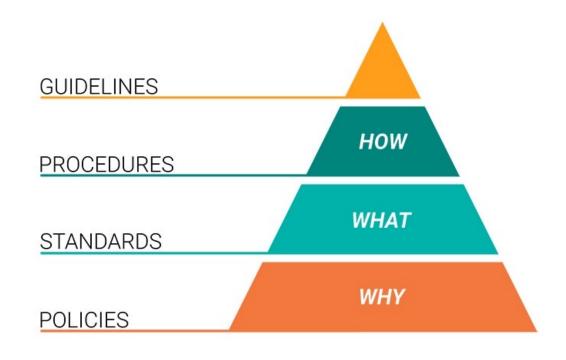
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Super Tx	Terbutaline, BiPAP, Aminophylline, ETT	HFNC, CPAP, ETT	Heliox, ETT			

Policies, procedures, guidelines, references



Vital signs

- Methods and equipment
- VS reference table
- Abnormal VS alert









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	Infant (0-12 months)	Toddler (1-2 years)	Preschool (3-5 years)	School (6-11 years)	Adolescent (12-18 years)
Pulse	110-165	100-140	80-125	70-110	60-100
Respiratory Rate	30-60	35-45	20-30	16-25	12-20
Systolic Blood Pressure	70-100	85-105	90-110	95-115	100-120
Temperature (Celsius)	36-38	36-38	36-38	36-38	36-38
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	96.8-100.4	96.8-101	96.8-101	96.8-101	96.8-102
Pulse Oximeter	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%

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Broselow*-Luten Zones

It is always preferable to measure the patient using a Broselow® Pediatric Emergency Reference Tape to determine the color zone.

For situations in which the child cannot be measured, patient age may be used to select the zone.

Zone	Patient weight	Age
3 kg, 4 kg, and 5 kg zones	3 kg, 4 kg, and 5 kg	< 3 mos
Pink	6-7 kg	3–5 mos
Red	8-9 kg	6–11 mos
Purple	10-11 kg	12-24 mos
Yellow	12–14 kg	2 yrs
White	15-18 kg	3–4 yrs
Blue	19-23 kg	5–6 yrs
Orange	24-29 kg	7–9 yrs
Green	30-36 kg	10-11 yrs

SEIZURE		ICP	
2 mg (1 mL)	3% Saline	42-105 mL	
2 mg (0.5 mL)	Mannitol 20% (0.2 g/mL)	21 g (105 mL)	
4.2 mg (0.84 mL)	25% (0.25 g/mL)	21 g (84 mL)	
		21 mg (2.1 mL)	
	FLUIDS		
	Fluid Bolus		
	Crystalloid (NS or LR)	420 mL	
	Colloid/blood	210 mL	
	Maintenance		
	D5 1/2 NS + 20 mEq KCL/L	63 mL/hr	
	PAIN		
		21 mcg (0.42 mL)	
		2.1 mg (1.1 mL)	
	(4 mg/mL)	2.1 mg (0.53 mL)	
1 mg (1 mL)	* Dilute D ₅₀ W 1:1 with preservative	free sterile water	
EQUIPMENT		EQUIPMENT	
5.5 Uncuffed/*5.0 Cuffed	Oxygen Mask	Pediatric NRB	
15.5-16.5 cm	*ETCO,	Adult	
10 French	*Urinary Catheter	10-12 French	
10 French	,	20-28 French	
2 Straight or Curved		10-14 French	
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EDTC PATHWAY

Asthma Clinical Practice Pathway

Box 1. Eligibility criteria include:

- 1. Age ≥2 years (children 1-2 years are eligible if discussed with MD/PA/NP)
- 2. Prior diagnosis of asthma or RAD without other significant comorbidities (tracheostomy, cardiac disease)
- 3. Acute symptoms of an exacerbation (wheezing, difficulty breathing, significant

Box 2. Asthma assessment components

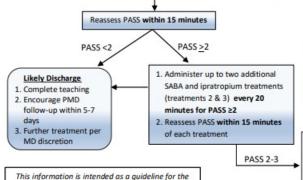
- 1. Respiratory rate, oxygen saturation
- 2. PASS Score
- 3. Peak flow (If older than 5 years and able to complete)

Patient roomed if available. If not, initial treatment below provided in triage.

> Initial Treatment

EDTC PASS 0-2 Order Set

- 1. Supplemental oxygen as needed to maintain SpO2 ≥92%
- 2. Administer Short-acting β-agonist (SABA) per protocol or by provider order
- 3. Consider additional SABA via inhaler with spacer and
- 4. Provider to order albuterol q20 minutes x2 for PASS ≥2
- 5. Add ipratropium bromide (Atrovent®) 0.5 mg if recent albuterol treatments given at home or via EMS
- 6. Administer oral steroids for patients requiring more than one SABA treatment: Decadron 0.6mg/kg (Max 16 mg). (Strongly consider for any patient with significant asthma history or prolonged symptoms.)



management of children with Asthma.

Management of the actual patient may require a

more individualized approach.

Is patient eligible for asthma clinical pathway? (Box 1)

Nurse or RCP begins

asthma assessment

See Box 2

YES

Box 3. Adjunct Therapies

1. Epinephrine 1:1000, 0.01 mL/kg SC (max

Patient off clinical pathway

- 2. Heliox 70/30 (If no oxygen requirement)
- 3. Terbutaline 2mcg/kg IV bolus, then 0.1mcg/kg/min infusion
- 4. Aminophylline 5-7 mg/kg IV load over 20-30 minutes. Maintenance dosing: https://connect.chw.org/Search?keywords =aminophylline&context=intranet
- 5. CPAP/BiPAP for impending or actual respiratory failure.

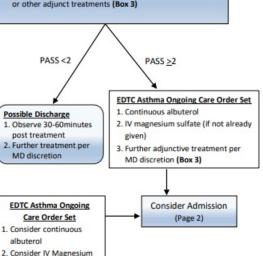
Patient immediately roomed in main ED and attending notified.

> Initial Treatment

EDTC PASS 3-6 Order Set

- Supplemental oxygen as needed to maintain SpO₂ ≥92%
- 2. Administer continuous albuterol and ipratropium bromide
- 3. Oral corticosteroids: Decadron 0.6mg/kg (Max 16 mg). Consider methylprednisolone IV at 2mg/kg for vomiting or inability to tolerate PO (max dose 60-80 mg).
- 4. Assess PASS every 15 minutes
- 5. For PASS ≥5 strongly consider early IV magnesium sulfate or other adjunct treatments (Box 3)

Asthma Clinical Pathway . EDTC (updated 6/2021) pg. 1

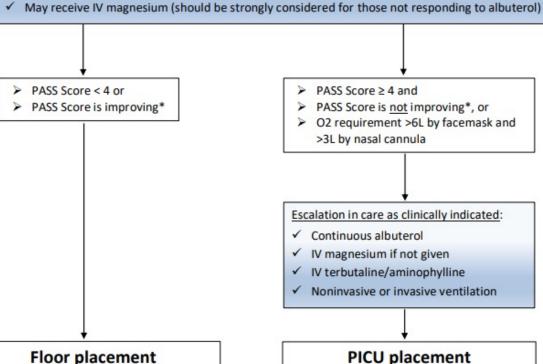




Asthma Admission Algorithm

Patients at increased risk of needed admission:

- Combined PASS and total number of β-agonists treatments administered >5
 - Continuous albuterol considered equivalent to 3 treatments
- ✓ Received treatment in CHW ED for at least 2 hours.
- ✓ Received at least 6 albuterol treatments (equivalent of 2 hours continuous)
- ✓ Received steroids



Floor placement

Patients may require frequent albuterol treatments or continuous albuterol treatments on the floor.

Patients requiring rapid escalation in care may not have 2 hours of treatment at time of bed request.



Croup¹ Clinical Practice Guideline

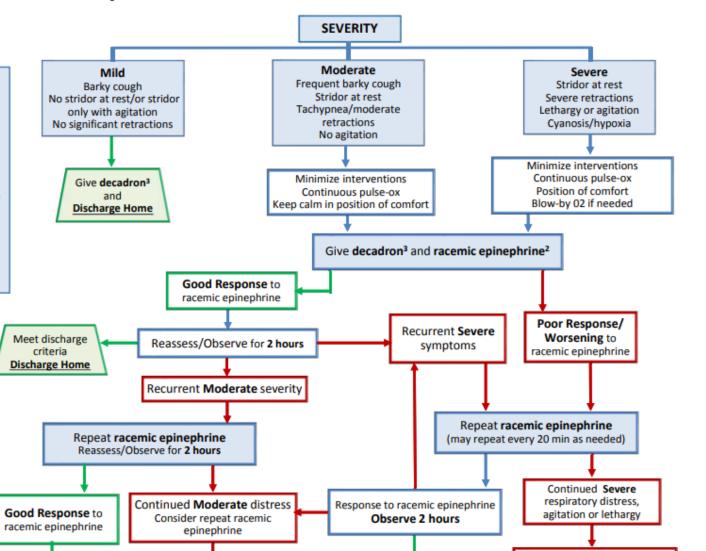
EDTC Guideline

Criteria for use of Guideline: Inclusion:

- Previously healthy children
- Common age: 6 months-6years
- History & clinical exam consistent with primary diagnosis of croup¹

Exclusion:

- Toxic appearance
- Symptoms suggestive of alternative diagnosis9
- Known upper airway abnormality
- Recent airway instrumentation
- History of chronic/recurrent aspiration
- Neurologic impairment/neuromuscular weakness
- Immunocompromise



Meet discharge

criteria

Discharge Home

Consider Heliox Consider alternative diagnosis⁹

> Admit to ICU

EDTC Discharge Criteria:

- Minimal or no stridor at rest
- Able to tolerate oral intake
- 2 hours post racemic epinephrine

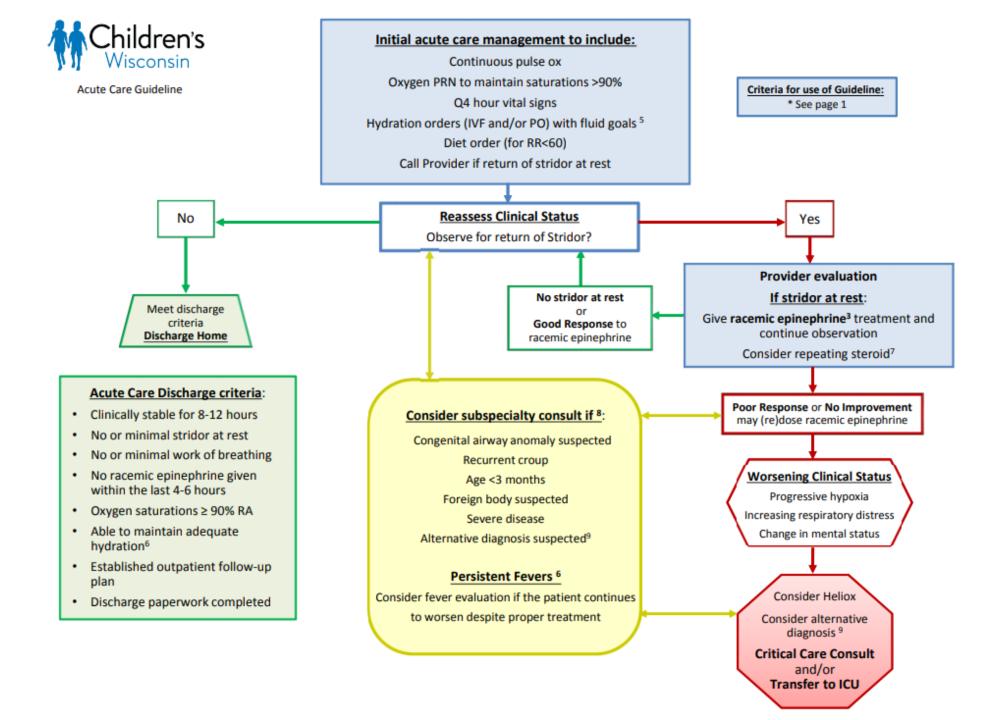
ADMIT to

HOSPITAL4

Meet discharge

criteria

Discharge Home



Emergency Department Clinical Pathway for Evaluation/Treatment of Children with Bronchiolitis

response.

Discharge Criteria

Oxygen saturation > 90% awake

Mild/moderate work of breathing

MDI/spacer teaching if response

Able to obtain follow-up care

Adequate oral intake

Reliable caretaker

to albuterol

Goals and Metrics

Patient Education

Provider Resources

Related Pathways

Bronchiolitis, Inpatient Bronchiolitis, Oral/Enteral Feeding, ED and Inpatient

Quality Story

Reducing Albuterol Use in Children with Bronchiolitis

Sample Bronchiolitis Pathway Patient Progression Sample Bronchiolitis Pathway Patient Progression on HFNC

Infant With Typical Bronchiolitis Supportive Care Additional Treatment Considerations Albuterol Trial Suction Racemic epinephrine Hydration, nutrition Antibiotics Supplemental oxygen Hypertonic Saline Pulse oximetry <u>Triage</u> Further Diagnostic Testing Fever Management Consider ED Asthma Pathway if: Recurrent wheezing / prior steroid use Age > 12 months Strong response to albuterol History and Physical Initial Respiratory Assessment Mild Moderate Severe Suction: Bulb Consider Suction-bulb Suction: Bulb or wall Bronchodilators not recommended for typical Bronchodilators not bronchiolitis. If used, document reason and response. recommended for typical bronchiolitis. If used, If no improvement after suctioning, assess with attending at bedside to discuss additional treatment document reason and

Base decision on:

Repeated assessments

Admission Criteria

Response to therapy Stage of illness

Admit if discharge criteria not met:

Inpatient: Requires HFNC, O2 or progression expected

Evidence

Bronchiolitis 2

Primer 📝

<u>Families</u>

including initiating HFNC oxygen at 1.5 L/kg/minute -

If required FiO2 > 0.4 or continued severe distress despite increase to 2 L/kg/min / Max HFNC settings, initiate CPAP at 8 cm/0.4 Fig2 and consult PICU.

Reducing Albuterol Use in Children With Bronchiolitis [3]

Clinical Practice Guideline: The

A Randomized Trial of High-Flow

Oxygen Therapy in Infants with

Educational Media

MD/APP Learning Module 📙

PEM Podcast: Bronchiolitis 🗹 Bronchiolitis Educational Video for

Bronchiolitis: A Scenario-Based

Diagnosis, Management, and

Prevention of Bronchiolitis [7]

EDECU: Mild disease with expected LOS < 24 hours

View Job Aid

See Enteral Feeding Guidelines

ICU: Apnea, severe distress

Requires HFNC above floor maximum, noninvasive or invasive ventilation

Infants with these risk factors present early in the illness have higher risk of progression:

Gestational age < 34 weeks Respiratory rate ≥ 70 Age < 3 months

https://www.chop.edu/pathways

Equipment





HFNC

Indications

- <2 YO with resp distress
- Not improving on NC in 30 min

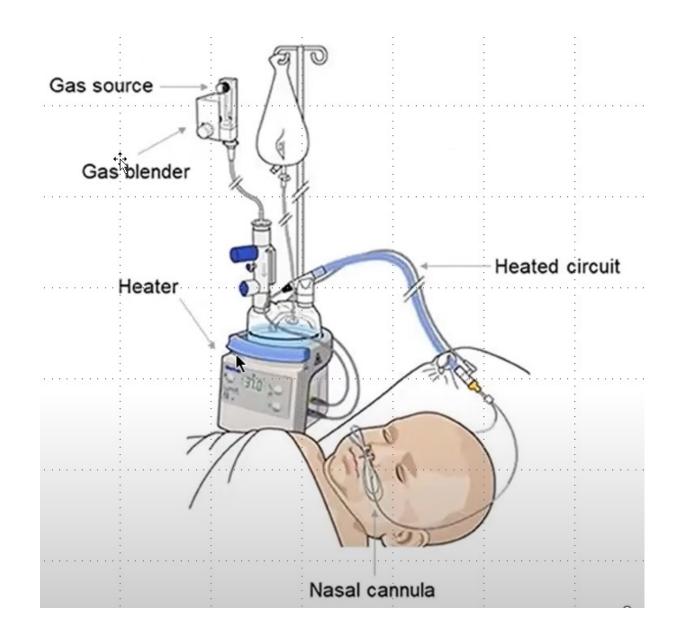


Not if

- Apneic or severe distress
- NC is adequate
- Co-morbidities

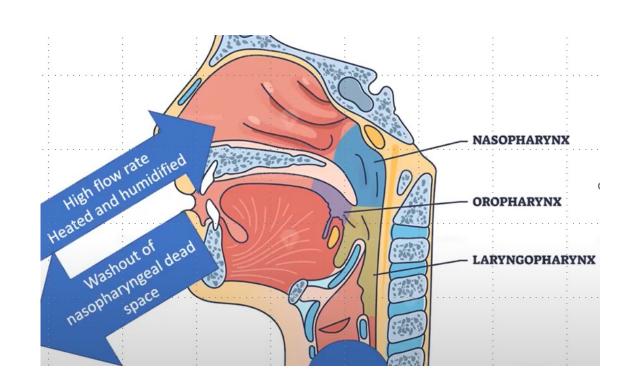
HFNC

- Humidity
- Adjustable flow: ½ to 30 L/min
- Adjust O2



HFNC mechanism of action

- Improved WOB
- Higher FiO2 delivered
- Decrease UAW resistance
- Less energy used
- Washout of dead space



Flow Rate

Age-Based

Age	HFNC floor maximum (L/min)	HFNC floor minimum (L/min)
44wk PMA - 90 days*	4	3
91 days - 6 months*	6	4
>6 months - 1 year	8	5
>1 year - <2 years	10	5

*Correct for gestational age

Trial HFNC at acute care max flow



Weight-Based

Initiate HFNC

- Document baseline vitals to monitor effect of therapy & start at max support:
- Order HFNC at dose below:
 - Flow: 2 L/Kg* with 30L/min maximum at York St. Campus - *maximum may differ at various delivery networks
 - FiO₂: Titrate from 21%-60% (Max 60% at York St ward) to keep ≥ 90%

Yale NewHaven Health

HFNC vs CPAP

HFNC	CPAP	
Treatment failure ~0.5x low flow	Treatment failure ~0.5x HFNC	
Gastric distension, poor feeding	More gastric distension, poorer feeding	
More comfortable	Less comfortable	
More water in circuit/patient	More skin breakdown	
Low risk of pneumothorax	Slightly higher risk of pneumothorax	
\$\$	\$\$\$	

Monitoring

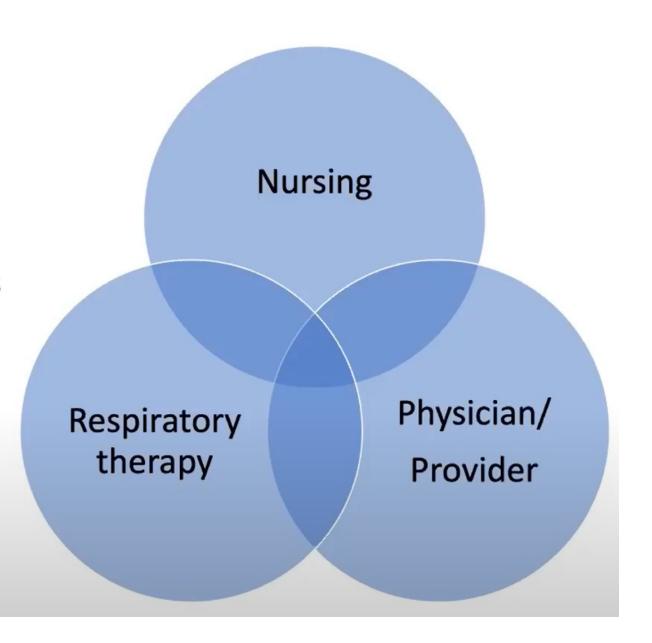
- Continuous cardiopulmonary
- VBG, CBG or clinical exam
- Intermittent POX if not continuous Oxygen Tx
- Reassess every 30 min initially
- Use resp score
- Escalate: 3 L/kg/min up to 30 l/min then PAP or BiPAP
- Wean q 4 hours
- Off HFNC if at 0.5 l/kg/min and O2 of <40%



Staffing

- Nurse ratios
- RT ratios
- Number of HFNC patients
- Experience of providers

Champions and buy-in







Efficacy of High-Flow Nasal Cannula vs Standard Oxygen Therapy or Nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure in Children with Respiratory Distress: A Meta-Analysis

Jian Luo, MD, PhD¹, Trevor Duke, MD, FRACP², Mohammod Jobayer Chisti, MBBS, MMed, PhD^{2,3}, Elizabeth Kepreotes, PhD⁴, Valerie Kalinowski, MD, MHA⁵, and Jie Li, MS, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS⁶

Objectives To evaluate the efficacy of high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) oxygen therapy in providing respiratory support of children with acute lower respiratory infection (ALRI), hypoxemia, and respiratory distress.

Study design We performed a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials that compared HFNC and standard flow oxygen therapy or nasal continuous positive airway pressure (nCPAP) and reported treatment failure as an outcome. Data were synthesized using Mann-Whitney U test.

Results Compared with standard oxygen therapy, HFNC significantly reduced treatment failure (risk ratio [RR] 0.49, 95% CI 0.40-0.60, P < .001) in children with mild hypoxemia (arterial pulse oximetry [SpO₂] >90% on room air). HFNC had an increased risk of treatment failure compared with nCPAP in infants age 1-6 months with severe hypoxemia (SpO₂ <90% on room air or SpO₂ >90% on supplemental oxygen) (RR 1.77, 95% CI 1.17-2.67, P = .007). No significant differences were found in intubation rates and mortality between HFNC and standard oxygen therapy or nCPAP. HFNC had a lower risk of nasal trauma compared with nCPAP (RR 0.35, 95% CI 0.16-0.77, P = .009). **Conclusions** Among children <5 years of age with ALRI, respiratory distress, and mild hypoxemia, HFNC reduced the risk of treatment failure when compared with standard oxygen therapy. However, nCPAP was associated with a lower risk of treatment failure than HFNC in infants age 1-6 months with ALRI, moderate-to-severe respiratory distress, and severe hypoxemia. No differences were found in intubation and mortality between HFNC and standard oxygen therapy or nCPAP. (*J Pediatr 2019;215:199-208*).



Clinical pathways

• CHOP: https://www.chop.edu/clinical-pathway/bronchiolitis-emergent-evaluation-clinical-pathway

• Seattle:

https://www.seattlechildrens.org/globalassets/doc uments/healthcare-professionals/clinical-standardwork/bronchiolitis-pathway.pdf

Nurses: Engage & Educate the Family

- Nasal Suctioning
 - Keep the airway clear
 - FREQUENT
 - Partner with family
 - Before feeding/drinking
- Staying hydrated
 - Empower family
 - Encourage POs, try a syringe
 - Consider NG/OG before IV
 - Urine output

Monitors

- What and how pt. is monitored
- How will you respond to alarms
- Spot checking vs. continuous monitoring
 - When and why
- Sick vs Distress
 - Engage family from start
 - Explain your evaluation
 - Ask their opinion
 - Trust their instincts

Disposition options

- Discharge home
- Observe prior to DC
- Maximize therapy and re-evaluate
- Transfer



Escalation of care (consult)

- Keep monitoring
- NC
- HFNC
- Heliox
- NIPPV
- Intubation

- 02
- Alb
- Ipratropium
- Steroid
- Epi
- Magnesium
- Terbutaline



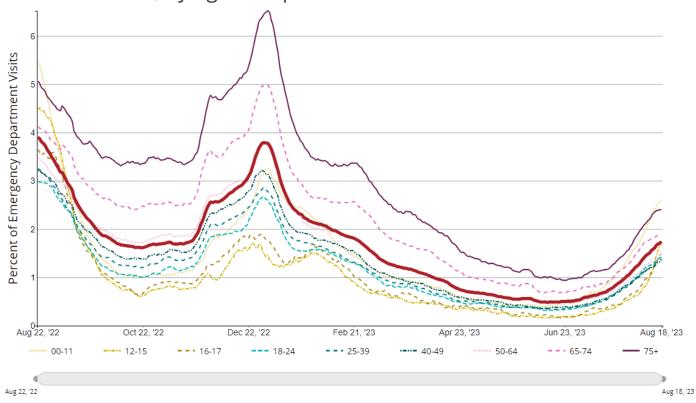
Prior to transfer

- Maximize hydration
- Consider VBG
- Sxn, sxn, sxn
- Consider CXR
- Call early if appropriate
- Method of transfer
- Intensivist consult

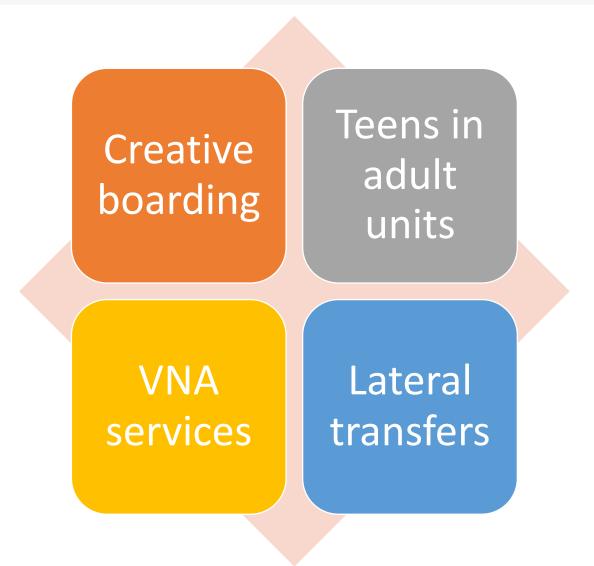


Surge Capacity Challenges

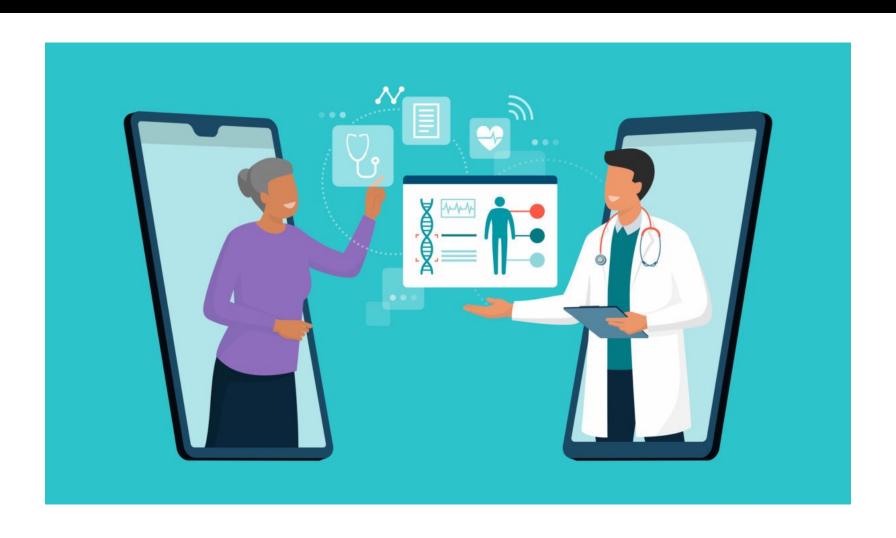
Percentage of Emergency Department Visits with Diagnosed COVID-19 in United States, by Age Group



Space



Telemedicine



Telemedicine: Emergency Department

- Emergency Care Connect: peds telemedicine: <u>Foster</u> et al., Acad Pediatr 2020
 - 4 EDs and 1 UCC
 - 1327 Peds contact with 202 telemedicine
 71% remained locally and 25% care plan changes
 - High satisfaction
 - Barriers:
 - lack of familiarity with telemedicine
 - fears of changes in workflow
 - Reduced with strong institutional support and frequent, sustained stakeholder engagement.

Telemedicine in the emergency department: an overview of systematic reviews <u>Sharifi</u> <u>Kia et al. 2022</u>

- 9/18 concluded real-time video conferencing was the best method of delivery
- 8 had cost reduction as an outcome
- <u>6 studies found technical & infrastructure</u> barriers

• In conclusion, despite the high potential of telemedicine systems, there is still a need for better quality of evidence in order to confirm their feasibility in the ED.

Complex teamwork

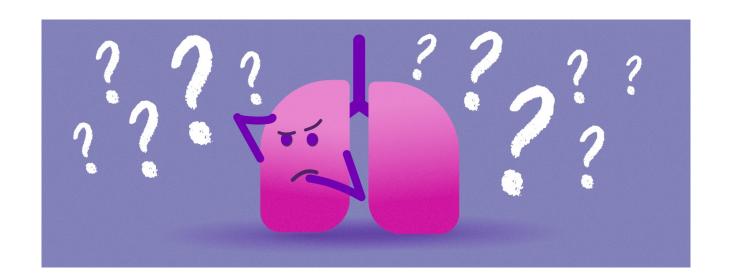
- Dept Public Health
- PCP
- ED and hospital personnel
- Nursing
- RT
- Receiving hospital
- Family
- Hospital leadership



Call to action

- Public health
 - Vaccinating the community (RSV, Flu, COVID +)
 - Prophylaxis
 - Spread mitigation
 - Education
- PCP availability
- Enhancing the community ED expertise (reduce transfer)
 - Manage sicker pts locally
 - Early consult: make plan, support care, transfer triage, telemedicine
- Staffing resources
- Flexible age limit (increase IP capacity)





- https://www.rdhrs.org/surge-in-pediatric-patients-with-acuterespiratory-infections-resources-and-tools/
- https://bpb-use2.wpmucdn.com/sites.pedspandemicnetwork.org/dist/c/12/files/20 23/04/pediatric-surge-recommendations-resources.pdf