SHORTNESS OF BREATH BLS

Indications

• Acute or progressive shortness of breath, chest discomfort, wheezing, cyanosis

Mild to Moderate

• Pt alert
• May be unable to speak full sentences
• Minimal accessory muscle use

• For upper airway obstruction/Stridor: NS 3ml HHN

Assist patient with own medication if available

Severe

• Altered mental status
• Minimal air movement
• Inability to speak
• Cyanosis

• PHYSICIAN CONSULT for Epi-Pen® (or equivalent)
• If no improvement MR in 5 min with physician consult

Transfer care to ALS personnel as soon as possible

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

• Suspect carbon monoxide in cases of exposure to fire; do not rely on pulse oximetry alone in this setting