

# ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

ALWAYS USE STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

## INDICATIONS

- Increased respiratory rate or sensation of difficulty breathing that is not clearly due to the clinical entities specified in other guidelines. Symptoms may be due to pneumonia, inhalation of toxic substances, pulmonary embolus.

## TREATMENT

- ALS RMC
- Position of comfort
- If absent or diminished breath sounds due to severe bronchospasm, refer to Bronchospasm/Asthma/COPD, R4
- Consider CPAP with decreased oxygen saturation

## DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Pulse oximetry

## RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- CPAP Procedure ALS PR 13
- Bronchospasm/Asthma/COPD R4
- Toxic Inhalation R7