

PHYSICIAN'S ORDERS  
ASTHMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Adult)

Weight \_\_\_\_\_(kg) Height: \_\_\_\_\_(cm)

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

To complete the order form, fill in the required blanks and/or check the appropriate boxes.  
To delete orders, draw one line through the item and initial.

Refer to Guidelines on reverse of orders

HR, RR, SPO2 pre and post-bronchodilator treatments and at least q30min thereafter. BP and temperature q4h  
Baseline lung function assessment: [ ] Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF)  
Reassess PEF % predicted AFTER each bronchodilator treatment and before discharge  
Supplemental oxygen to: [ ] keep SPO2 greater than or equal to 92% OR  
[ ] achieve minimum SPO2 greater than or equal to 95% (in pregnancy)  
If fever greater than 38 degrees Celsius and new/worse cough/SOB, use DROPLET Precautions and notify Infection Control.

Medications: (pMDI - pressurized Metered Dose Inhaler)

Salbutamol pMDI + spacer (usually 4 to 8 puffs inhaled q15 to 20 minutes for 3 doses.  
For PEF less than 40% predicted, consider 1 puff q30 to 60 sec for 4 to 20 puffs)

[ ] Initial dose: \_\_\_\_\_ puffs inhaled q \_\_\_\_\_ min for \_\_\_\_\_ doses  
[ ] Subsequent doses: \_\_\_\_\_ puffs inhaled q \_\_\_\_\_ h and q \_\_\_\_\_ h prn

OR

Salbutamol (5 mg/mL) by nebulizer - if unable to use spacer:

Note: Personal Protective Equipment and isolation required for nebulized therapy as per Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI) Guidelines

[ ] Initial dose: \_\_\_\_\_ mL q \_\_\_\_\_ min OR [ ] continuous, for \_\_\_\_\_ doses (usually 1 mL (5 mg) q15-20 min for 3 doses)  
[ ] Subsequent doses: \_\_\_\_\_ mL q \_\_\_\_\_ h and q \_\_\_\_\_ h prn

Ipratropium bromide pMDI + spacer (usually 4 to 8 puffs inhaled q15 to 20 minutes for 3 doses)

[ ] Initial dose: \_\_\_\_\_ puffs inhaled q \_\_\_\_\_ min for \_\_\_\_\_ doses  
[ ] Subsequent doses: \_\_\_\_\_ puffs inhaled q \_\_\_\_\_ h and q \_\_\_\_\_ h prn

OR

Ipratropium (250 mcg/mL) by nebulizer - if unable to use spacer:

Note: Personal Protective Equipment and isolation required for nebulized therapy as per Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI) Guidelines

[ ] Initial dose: \_\_\_\_\_ mL q \_\_\_\_\_ min OR [ ] continuous, for \_\_\_\_\_ doses (usually 1 to 2 mL (250-500 mcg) q15-20 min for 3 doses)  
[ ] Subsequent doses: \_\_\_\_\_ mL q \_\_\_\_\_ h and q \_\_\_\_\_ h prn

Corticosteroid

[ ] Prednisone 50 mg PO once now

OR

[ ] Methylprednisolone \_\_\_\_\_ mg (40 to 125 mg) IV now if severe asthma or oral prednisone a concern

IV Access: [ ] IV 0.9% sodium chloride at \_\_\_\_\_ mL/h OR [ ] Saline Lock OR [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Consult:

Refer to Asthma Education Centre [ ] Specialist/Service: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR SEVERE and POTENTIALLY FATAL ASTHMA:

[ ] Chest x-ray (portable) [ ] Arterial blood gases [ ] Venous blood gases [ ] CBC, lytes, Urea, Cr, Glu [ ] ECG  
[ ] Magnesium sulphate \_\_\_\_\_ g IV once now (usually 2 g)

Consider:

[ ] Epinephrine 0.3 mg (0.3 mL, 1:1,000) IM now

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

MD SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



Table 1 - Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) - Assessments 2009

<b>MILD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exertional dyspnea/cough</li> <li>±nocturnal symptoms</li> <li>Increased use of β agonist for symptom control</li> <li>Good response to β agonist</li> </ul>	PEF- >60% predicted or previous best (PEF > 300 L/min in average adult)
<b>MODERATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dyspnea at rest, cough, congested, chest tightness</li> <li>Nocturnal symptoms</li> <li>Partial relief from β agonist and/or β agonist needed more often than q4h</li> </ul>	PEF- 40-60% predicted or previous best (PEF 200-300 L/min in average adult)
<b>SEVERE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboured breathing</li> <li>Agitated, diaphoretic</li> <li>Difficulty speaking</li> <li>Tachycardia</li> <li>No prehospital relief with β agonist</li> </ul>	PEF- unable or <40% predicted or previous best (PEF < 200 L/min in average adult) O2 saturation <90%

**Mean Peak Expiratory Flow Rates (PEFR) (litres/minute)**

Height cm	MALES									
	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74
142	147	152	157	163	168	173	178	183	188	193
148	153	158	163	168	173	178	183	188	193	198
154	159	164	169	174	179	184	189	194	199	204
160	165	170	175	180	185	190	195	200	205	210
166	171	176	181	186	191	196	201	206	211	216
172	177	182	187	192	197	202	207	212	217	222
178	183	188	193	198	203	208	213	218	223	228
184	189	194	199	204	209	214	219	224	229	234
190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240
196	201	206	211	216	221	226	231	236	241	246
202	207	212	217	222	227	232	237	242	247	252
208	213	218	223	228	233	238	243	248	253	258
214	219	224	229	234	239	244	249	254	259	264
220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270
226	231	236	241	246	251	256	261	266	271	276
232	237	242	247	252	257	262	267	272	277	282
238	243	248	253	258	263	268	273	278	283	288
244	249	254	259	264	269	274	279	284	289	294
250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300
256	261	266	271	276	281	286	291	296	301	306
262	267	272	277	282	287	292	297	302	307	312
268	273	278	283	288	293	298	303	308	313	318
274	279	284	289	294	299	304	309	314	319	324
280	285	290	295	300	305	310	315	320	325	330
286	291	296	301	306	311	316	321	326	331	336
292	297	302	307	312	317	322	327	332	337	342
298	303	308	313	318	323	328	333	338	343	348
304	309	314	319	324	329	334	339	344	349	354
310	315	320	325	330	335	340	345	350	355	360
316	321	326	331	336	341	346	351	356	361	366
322	327	332	337	342	347	352	357	362	367	372
328	333	338	343	348	353	358	363	368	373	378
334	339	344	349	354	359	364	369	374	379	384
340	345	350	355	360	365	370	375	380	385	390
346	351	356	361	366	371	376	381	386	391	396
352	357	362	367	372	377	382	387	392	397	402
358	363	368	373	378	383	388	393	398	403	408
364	369	374	379	384	389	394	399	404	409	414
370	375	380	385	390	395	400	405	410	415	420
376	381	386	391	396	401	406	411	416	421	426
382	387	392	397	402	407	412	417	422	427	432
388	393	398	403	408	413	418	423	428	433	438
394	399	404	409	414	419	424	429	434	439	444
400	405	410	415	420	425	430	435	440	445	450
406	411	416	421	426	431	436	441	446	451	456
412	417	422	427	432	437	442	447	452	457	462
418	423	428	433	438	443	448	453	458	463	468
424	429	434	439	444	449	454	459	464	469	474
430	435	440	445	450	455	460	465	470	475	480
436	441	446	451	456	461	466	471	476	481	486
442	447	452	457	462	467	472	477	482	487	492
448	453	458	463	468	473	478	483	488	493	498
454	459	464	469	474	479	484	489	494	499	504
460	465	470	475	480	485	490	495	500	505	510
466	471	476	481	486	491	496	501	506	511	516
472	477	482	487	492	497	502	507	512	517	522
478	483	488	493	498	503	508	513	518	523	528
484	489	494	499	504	509	514	519	524	529	534
490	495	500	505	510	515	520	525	530	535	540
496	501	506	511	516	521	526	531	536	541	546
502	507	512	517	522	527	532	537	542	547	552
508	513	518	523	528	533	538	543	548	553	558
514	519	524	529	534	539	544	549	554	559	564
520	525	530	535	540	545	550	555	560	565	570
526	531	536	541	546	551	556	561	566	571	576
532	537	542	547	552	557	562	567	572	577	582
538	543	548	553	558	563	568	573	578	583	588
544	549	554	559	564	569	574	579	584	589	594
550	555	560	565	570	575	580	585	590	595	600
556	561	566	571	576	581	586	591	596	601	606
562	567	572	577	582	587	592	597	602	607	612
568	573	578	583	588	593	598	603	608	613	618
574	579	584	589	594	599	604	609	614	619	624
580	585	590	595	600	605	610	615	620	625	630
586	591	596	601	606	611	616	621	626	631	636
592	597	602	607	612	617	622	627	632	637	642
598	603	608	613	618	623	628	633	638	643	648
604	609	614	619	624	629	634	639	644	649	654
610	615	620	625	630	635	640	645	650	655	660
616	621	626	631	636	641	646	651	656	661	666
622	627	632	637	642	647	652	657	662	667	672
628	633	638	643	648	653	658	663	668	673	678
634	639	644	649	654	659	664	669	674	679	684
640	645	650	655	660	665	670	675	680	685	690
646	651	656	661	666	671	676	681	686	691	696
652	657	662	667	672	677	682	687	692	697	702
658	663	668	673	678	683	688	693	698	703	708
664	669	674	679	684	689	694	699	704	709	714
670	675	680	685	690	695	700	705	710	715	720
676	681	686	691	696	701	706	711	716	721	726
682	687	692	697	702	707	712	717	722	727	732
688	693	698	703	708	713	718	723	728	733	738
694	699	704	709	714	719	724	729	734	739	744
700	705	710	715	720	725	730	735	740	745	750
706	711	716	721	726	731	736	741	746	751	756
712	717	722	727	732	737	742	747	752	757	762
718	723	728	733	738	743	748	753	758	763	768
724	729	734	739	744	749	754	759	764	769	774
730	735	740	745	750	755	760	765	770	775	780
736	741	746	751	756	761	766	771	776	781	786
742	747	752	757	762	767	772	777	782	787	792
748	753	758	763	768	773	778	783	788	793	798
754	759	764	769	774	779	784	789	794	799	804
760	765	770	775	780	785	790	795	800	805	810
766	771	776	781	786	791	796	801	806	811	816
772	777	782	787	792	797	802	807	812	817	822
778	783	788	793	798	803	808	813	818	823	828
784	789	794	799	804	809	814	819	824	829	834
790	795	800	805	810	815	820	825	830	835	840
796	801	806	811	816	821	826	831	836	841	8