Children's
Hospital & Regional Medical Center
Emergency Department

Asthma/Wheezing Pathway

Low Respiratory Score

1-4

Patient currently wheezing

1st Assessment & Treatment

Dexamethasone Dosing Table

Wt (Kg)	4 Mg Tabs
8-9	4 mg (1 tab)
10-12	6 mg (1.5 tabs)
13-15	8 mg (2 tabs)
16-20	10 mg (2.5 tabs)
21-24	12 mg (3 tabs)
≥ 25	16 mg (4 tabs)

Consult MD Before Giving Dexamethasone if:

a) < 1 yr old or
b) Has received steroids in last 24 hrs or
c) Altered immune state i.e C-pox, etc

Respiratory Score 1-4

Albuterol Inhaler MDI
4 Puffs with Mask/Spacer
(=2.5 mg Albuterol)
+
Dexamethasone

Respiratory Score 5-12

Place on continuous nebulization pathway

2nd Assessments 1/2 Hr After 1st MDI

If concerned about respiratory failure or deterioration notify ED attending immediately and consider contiuous nebulizer

Respiratory Score ≤ 3

Observe for 1/2 hr
and arrange for discharge

Respiratory Score 4-8

Repeat Albuterol MDI
Same dose as above

Respiratory Score 9-12

Albuterol Inhaler
8 Puffs MDI
(= 5mg Albuterol)

If clinical diagnosis of bronchiolitis and not responding to nebs remove pt from pathway

3rd Assessments 1 Hr After 1st MDI

Respiratory Score ≤ 3

Observe for 1/2 hour
and/or arrange for discharge

Respiratory Score 4-8

Repeat Albuterol MDI
Same dose as above
Assess for admit vs discharge

Respiratory Score 9-12

Albuterol Inhaler
8 Puffs MDI
(= 5mg Albuterol)

Discharge

Admit

Discharges to Home

Send home with steroids, MDI or nebulization supplies as needed

Admits to Resp Care Unit if No CLD/CF/etc

Continued assessments & treatments
(while waiting for inpatient room)
Pt may go to floor as soon as unit ready
Give MDI at transfer if needed

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