

Pediatric Treatment Protocols

PEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY DISTRESS, FAILURE OR ARREST

Pediatric Respiratory Distress, Failure or Arrest

Pre-Medical Control

MRF/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

1. Follow **Pediatric Assessment and Treatment Protocol**.
2. Assess the patient's airway for patency, protective reflexes and the possible need for advanced airway management. Look for signs of airway obstruction. Signs include:
 - A. absent breath sounds
 - B. tachypnea
 - C. intercostal retractions
 - D. stridor or drooling
 - E. choking
 - F. bradycardia
 - G. cyanosis
3. If foreign body obstruction of the airway is suspected, refer to the **Emergency Airway Procedure**.
4. Consider partial airway obstruction in a patient who presents with acute respiratory distress of sudden onset accompanied by fever, drooling, hoarseness, stridor, and tripod positioning.
 - A. Do nothing to upset the child.
 - B. Perform critical assessments only.
 - C. Enlist the parent to administer blow-by oxygen.
 - D. Place the patient in a position of comfort.
 - E. Do not attempt vascular access.
 - F. Transport promptly
5. Open the airway using head tilt/chin lift if no spinal trauma is suspected, or modified jaw thrust if spinal trauma is suspected.
6. Suction as necessary.
7. Consider placing an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway adjunct if the airway cannot be maintained with positioning and the patient is unconscious.
8. Assess the patient's breathing, including rate, auscultation, inspection, effort, and adequacy of ventilation as indicated by chest rise.
9. If chest rise indicates inadequate ventilation, reposition airway and reassess.
10. If inadequate chest rise is noted after repositioning airway, suspect a foreign body obstruction of the airway. Refer to the **Emergency Airway Procedure**.
11. If breathing is adequate and patient exhibits signs of respiratory distress, administer high-flow, 100% concentration oxygen as necessary. Use a non-rebreather mask or blow-by as tolerated.
12. Assess for signs of respiratory distress, failure, or arrest. If signs of respiratory failure or arrest are present, assist ventilation using a bag-valve-mask device with high-flow, 100% concentration oxygen.

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EMT/SPECIALIST

13. If wheezing is present, refer to the **Pediatric Bronchospasm Protocol**.
14. Consider CPAP if available, per **CPAP/BiPAP Procedure**.
15. If the airway cannot be maintained and adequate oxygenation is not being provided, consider an approved Pediatric Supraglottic Airway, if available. Refer to the **Emergency Airway Procedure**.

PARAMEDIC

16. If wheezing is present, refer to the **Pediatric Bronchospasm Protocol**.
17. Consider CPAP/BiPAP if available, per **CPAP/BiPAP Procedure**.
18. If the airway cannot be maintained and adequate oxygenation is not being provided, consider an approved Pediatric Supraglottic Airway, if available or endotracheal intubation.
19. Confirm placement of endotracheal tube using clinical assessment and end-tidal CO₂ monitoring, if available. Refer to the **Emergency Airway Procedure**.

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