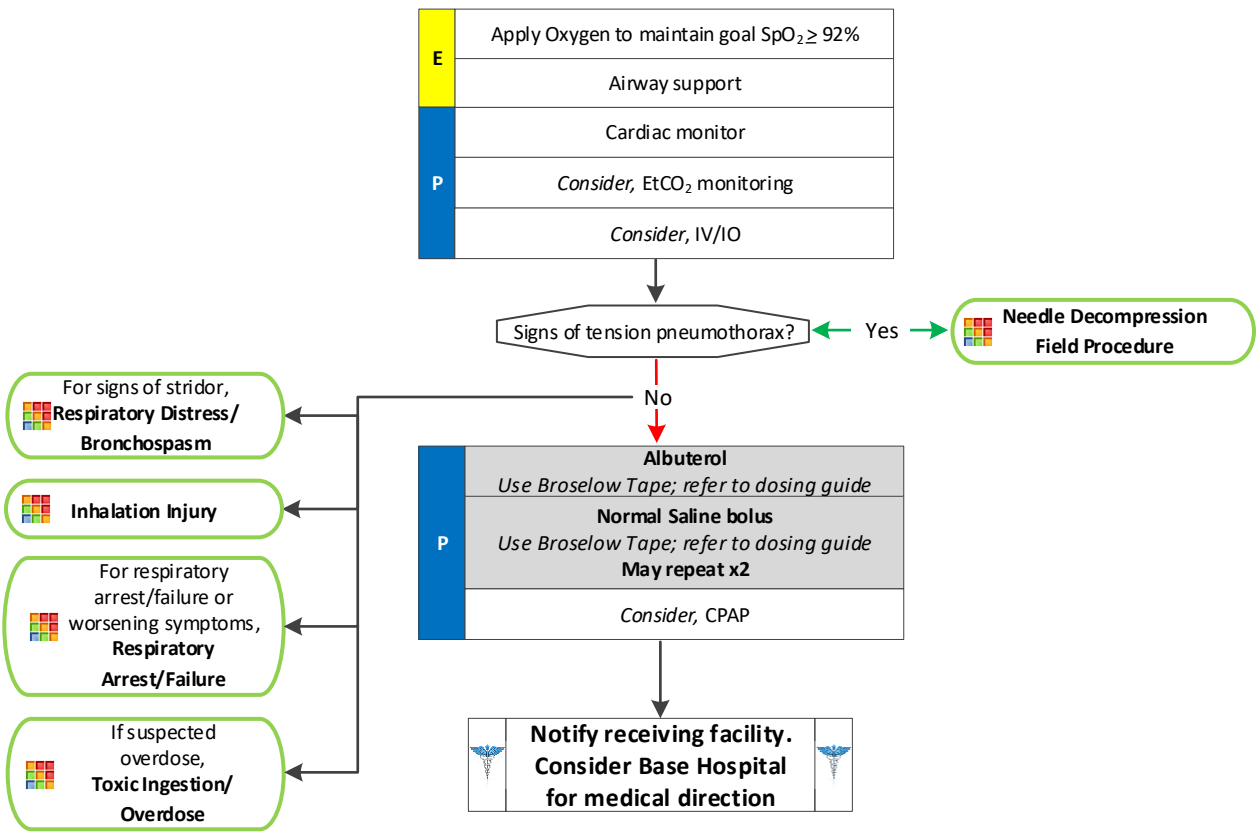


# Pediatric Respiratory Distress Other

For patients with pulmonary disease that is not croup, bronchiolitis, congenital heart disease or bronchospasm; includes suspected pneumonia, PE, pneumothorax and non-pulmonary and unknown causes of respiratory distress

<p><b>History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent respiratory illness, including pneumonia</li> <li>Pulmonary embolism</li> <li>Pneumothorax</li> <li>Medications (e.g., antibiotics, steroids, inhalers)</li> <li>Non-pulmonary and unknown causes of respiratory distress</li> <li>Anxiety</li> <li>Home ventilator/oxygen</li> </ul>	<p><b>Signs and Symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortness of breath</li> <li>Decreased ability to speak</li> <li>Increased respiratory rate and effort</li> <li>Rhonchi/diminished breath sounds</li> <li>Use of accessory muscles</li> <li>Cough</li> <li>Tachycardia</li> <li>Fever</li> <li>Hypotension</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asthma/COPD</li> <li>Anaphylaxis</li> <li>Aspiration</li> <li>Sepsis/Metabolic acidosis</li> <li>Pleural effusion</li> <li>Pneumonia</li> <li>Pulmonary embolus</li> <li>Pneumothorax/Tension pneumothorax</li> <li>Epiglottitis</li> <li>Pericardial tamponade</li> <li>Hyperventilation</li> <li>Toxin (e.g., carbon monoxide, ASA.)</li> </ul>
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Pediatric Respiratory Distress Treatment Protocols



**Pearls**

- For suspected anxiety, consider calming and coaching to slow breathing prior to starting ALS treatment.
- CPAP is contraindicated for patients with signs/symptoms of a pneumothorax.
- Signs/symptoms of a tension pneumothorax include: AMS; hypotension; increased pulse and respirations; absent breath sounds or hyperresonance to percussion on affected side; jugular vein distension; difficulty ventilating; and tracheal shift.
- Pulse oximetry monitoring is required for all respiratory patients.