

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Medical Directive – AUXILIARY

A Primary Care Paramedic may provide the treatment prescribed in this auxiliary Medical Directive if authorized.

Indications

Severe respiratory distress;

AND

Signs and /or symptoms of acute pulmonary edema or COPD.

Conditions

CPAP	
Age	≥ 18 years
LOA	N/A
HR	N/A
RR	Tachypnea
SBP	Normotension
Other	SpO ₂ <90% or accessory muscle use

Contraindications

CPAP
Asthma exacerbation
Suspected pneumothorax
Unprotected or unstable airway
Major trauma or burns to the head or torso
Tracheostomy
Inability to sit upright
Unable to cooperate

Treatment

Consider CPAP

Initial Setting	5 cm H ₂ O	Or equivalent flow rate of device as per RBHP direction
Titration increment	2.5 cm H ₂ O	Or equivalent flow rate of device as per RBHP direction
Titration interval	5 min	
Max. setting	15 cm H ₂ O	Or equivalent flow rate of device as per RBHP direction

Consider increasing FiO₂ (if available)

Initial FiO₂	50-100%
FiO₂ increment (if available on device)	SpO ₂ < 92% despite treatment and/or 10 cm H ₂ O pressure or equivalent flow rate of device as per RBHP direction
Max. FiO₂	100%

Confirm CPAP pressure by manometer (if available)

Clinical Considerations

N/A