

**Respiratory Distress / Failure / Acute Pulmonary Edema (Adult)****CFR AND ALL PROVIDER LEVELS**

1. ABCs and vital signs.
2. If an obstructed airway is suspected, see the Obstructed Airway (Adult) protocol.
3. Airway management.
4. Administer oxygen.
5. Do **NOT** permit physical activity.
6. Place the patient in a position of comfort.

**● CFR STOP****EMT**

7. For patients who are experiencing exacerbation of asthma or wheezing, see the Asthma / COPD / Wheezing (Adult) protocol.
8. Request Advanced Life Support assistance.
9. Initiate CPAP if available and if patient meets appropriate indication, as authorized by the service medical director (see Appendix P).

**● EMT STOP****Paramedic**

10. Begin cardiac monitoring.
11. Intravascular access.
12. Monitor vital signs every 2 – 3 minutes.
13. For patients with acute pulmonary edema:
  - a. Administer Nitroglycerin\* Tablet 1/150 gr or Spray 0.4 mg, sublingually, every 5 minutes, as long as systolic blood pressure remains 100 mmHg or higher.

**● Paramedic STOP****Medical Control Options**

1. Administer one of the following benzodiazepines for anxiolysis:
  - a. Lorazepam 1-2 mg, IV/IN/IM bolus.
  - b. Midazolam up to 5 mg, IV/IN/IM bolus.
2. Administer Furosemide 20-80 mg, IV bolus.

**Key Points / Considerations**

1. All patients who are in respiratory arrest must have ventilatory assistance unless a valid New York State Prehospital DNR Order and/or MOLST form is presented to the crew.
2. Monitor breathing continuously. Be alert for signs of hypoxia and/or increasing respiratory distress.
3. For adult patients with signs of on-going hypoxia, inability to adequately protect their airway, and / or exhibiting signs of inadequate respiration, assisted ventilations may be required. This should be done utilizing one of the following methods:
  - a. Pocket mask with supplemental oxygen set at 10 – 15 liters/minute.
  - b. Bag-valve-mask and reservoir with flow set at 10 – 15 liters/minute.
4. **\*Drug Advisories:**
  - a. **Nitroglycerin** – shall not be administered to patients who have used erectile dysfunction medications within the past 72 hours, unless otherwise directed by Online Medical Control.