

RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES

R-3 – GENERALIZED SHORTNESS OF BREATH

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs.
- Position of comfort PRN.
- Determine degree of physiologic distress.
- Evaluate respiratory rate, use of accessory muscles, cyanosis, ventilatory effort, level of consciousness.
- Maintain airway, provide oxygen and ventilatory support PRN.
- Consider 12 Lead EKG for patient age 35 or greater.
- Early transport (after initiating therapy), if appropriate.
- Consider possible causes including airway obstruction, pulmonary embolism, overdose, asthma, COPD, CHF, MI, pneumonia, pneumothorax, cardiac tamponade, anaphylaxis.
- **EARLY CONTACT OF RECEIVING HOSPITAL.**

Consider **OXYGEN THERAPY** – based on patient condition (consider lower dose in COPD patients).

Consider **CARDIAC MONITOR**.

Consider **IV Access TKO**.

Follow the specific protocol to treat specific causes of SOB.

Transport to appropriate facility.

Disrupted Communications

In the event of a "disrupted communication" situation, the EMT-P in Solano County may utilize all portions of this treatment protocol without Base Hospital contact as is needed to stabilize an immediate patient.