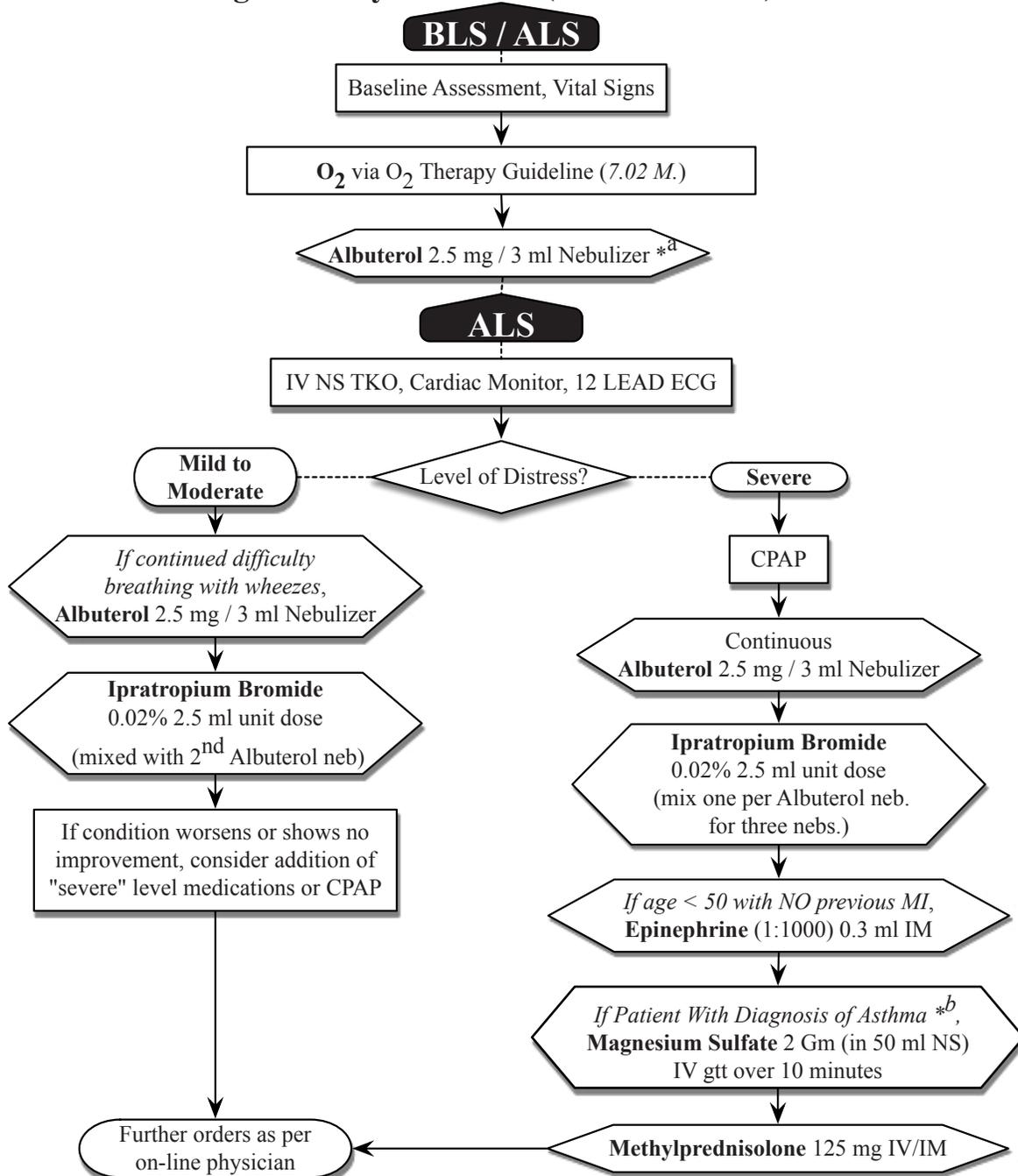


8.03 K. Breathing Difficulty : Wheezes (Asthma/COPD) - ADULT ONLY



*^a EMT's shall administer Albuterol only to patients who routinely use Albuterol for treatment of their asthma or COPD exacerbations.

*^b Magnesium Sulfate should not be given to patients who are known to have COPD only.

Severe exacerbations show signs of : pt. in tripod position, diaphoresis, altered mental status or acting erratically due to hypoxia, RR ≥ 45/min, tachycardia, SpO₂ ≤ 90%. Patient may not show all of these signs but if several are present, patient should be treated accordingly.

Use a nasal cannula at a flow rate of 4-6 liters per minute for supplemental oxygen for those patients who are in mild distress or have a history of severe COPD. If the respiratory distress does not resolve with oxygen by nasal cannula, change to a non-rebreather oxygen mask. Never withhold oxygen from any patient in severe distress. Consider use of ETCO₂ Nasal Cannula for evaluation of patient. Rising ETCO₂ may indicate treatment failure and the provider should initiate 'severe' arm treatments.