

7.07 CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP)

INDICATIONS

Patients age 8 or older in moderate to severe respiratory distress secondary to:

- CHF with pulmonary edema
- Acute exacerbation of COPD or asthma
- Pneumonia
- Near drowning
- Any other cause of respiratory failure (not respiratory arrest)

PROCEDURE

1. Place patient in seated position.
2. Set up CPAP system (per manufacturer's recommendation) with pressure set between 7.5-10 cm H₂O.
3. Explain procedure to patient.
4. Apply mask while reassuring patient-encourage patient to breath normally (may have a tendency to hyperventilate).
5. Re-evaluate the patient every 5 minutes- normally the patient will improve in the first 5 minutes with CPAP as evidenced by:
 - Decreased heart rate
 - Decreased respiratory rate
 - Decreased blood pressure
 - Increased SPO₂
6. NTG and Albuterol may be administered as indicated during the use of CPAP.