

EXACERBATION OF COPD

Transfer Criteria

Initial therapy of at least 10 mg total Albuterol aerosol, steroids, and CXR
Acceptable VS
Intermediate response to therapy - improving but still dyspneic, considered to be at High probability for further improvement and discharge home
Fair to good air exchange
Alert and oriented
CXR without apparent acute process
No indication of impending respiratory fatigue

Exclusion Criteria

Unstable VS or clinical condition
Poor response to therapy
Uncompensated elevation of pCO₂ or evidence of CO₂ narcosis, lethargy
Pulse-ox < 85 on 2 L oxygen or less after 10mg aerosolized Albuterol
Persistent use of accessory muscles, RR>40 after initial treatment
Pneumonia
Toxic theophylline level
New EKG changes

Potential Intervention

Nebulized bronchodilator therapy
Systemic steroids
Pulse oximetry, ABG's, Oxygen
Frequent Reassessment
TMS monitoring as needed
Chest PT
Hydration
Antibiotics if indicated

Disposition

Home - Acceptable VS
Resolution of bronchospasm or return to baseline status
Pulse-ox > 90% on room air or home FIO₂
Hospital - Progressive deterioration in status, Unstable VS
Failure to resolve bronchospasm within 18 hours
Co-existent pneumonia or CHF
Uncompensated pCO₂ Retention
Persistent peak flow below patient's baseline
Pulse-ox < 90 % on room air or home FIO₂