

“Tripledemic”

Severe Pediatric Respiratory Illnesses in the ED

emRIC ECHO

12.12.2022

Emergency Medicine for Rural and Indigenous Communities (emRIC) ECHO

Panelists:

- Dr. Liz Sanseau, PEM Physician, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Dr. Rachel Tuuri, University of New Mexico Peds EM Division Chief
- Dr. Tom Faber, IHS CCC for Pediatrics, CMO ABQ Area IHS
- Dr. Dan Schnorr, ED Director San Carlos Apache

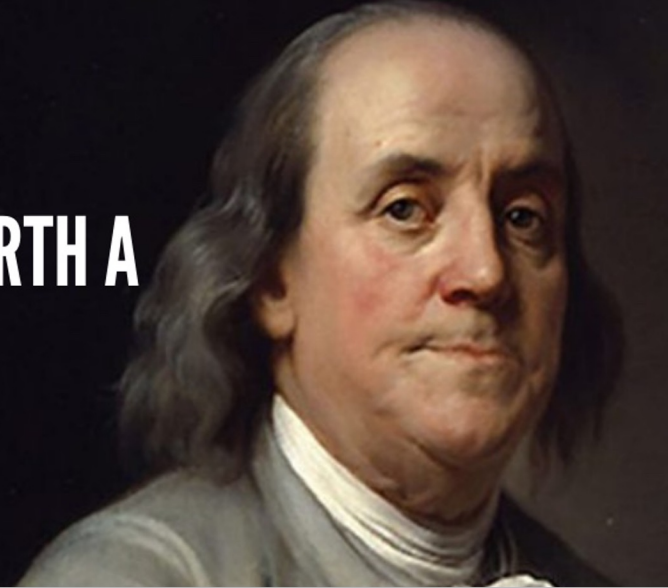
Facilitator: Dr. Paul Charlton, IHS CCC for EM, ED Director GIMC

ECHO Objectives

- Discuss best practices in clinical EM and EM operations
- Share experiences & innovative strategies for solving clinical and operational challenges

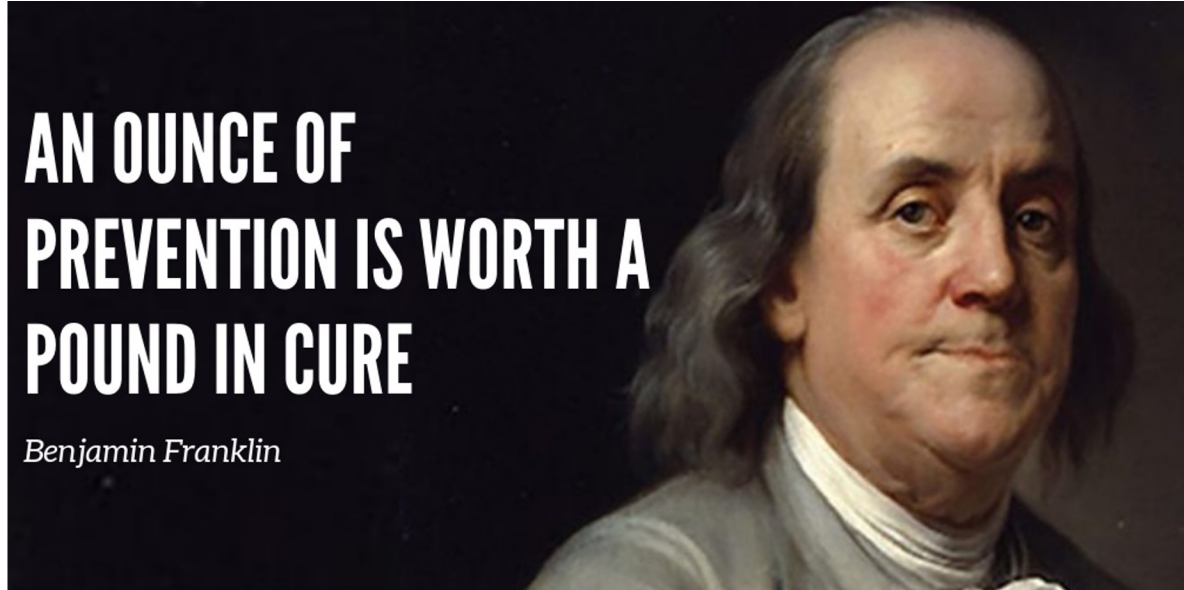
**AN OUNCE OF
PREVENTION IS WORTH A
POUND IN CURE**

Benjamin Franklin



Objectives today

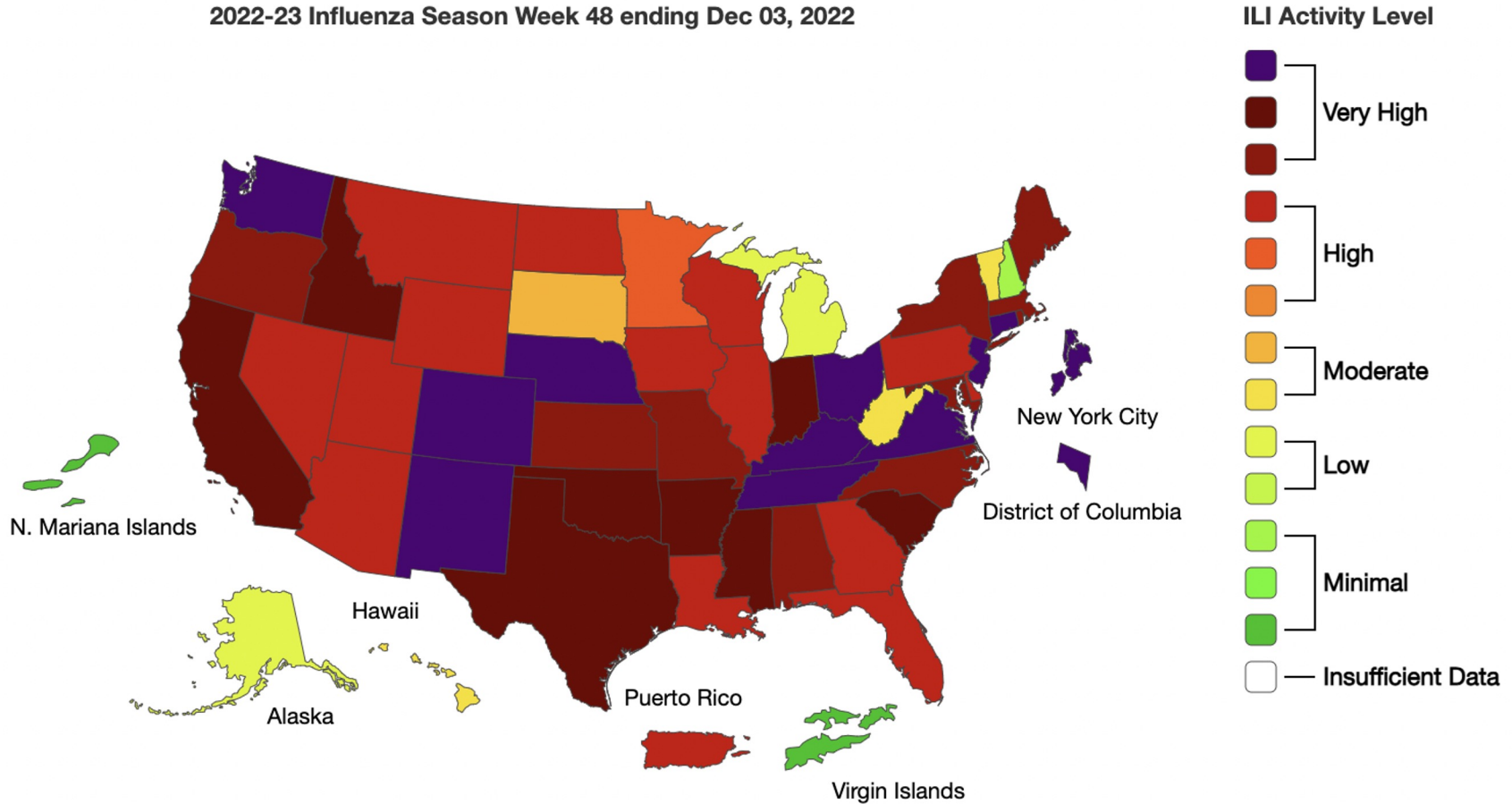
- **Nurses:** Recognizing sick kids, escalation pathways
- **Providers:** Escalation pathways, safe intubation considerations
- **Operations:** What equipment needs to be ordered/tracked



Session overview

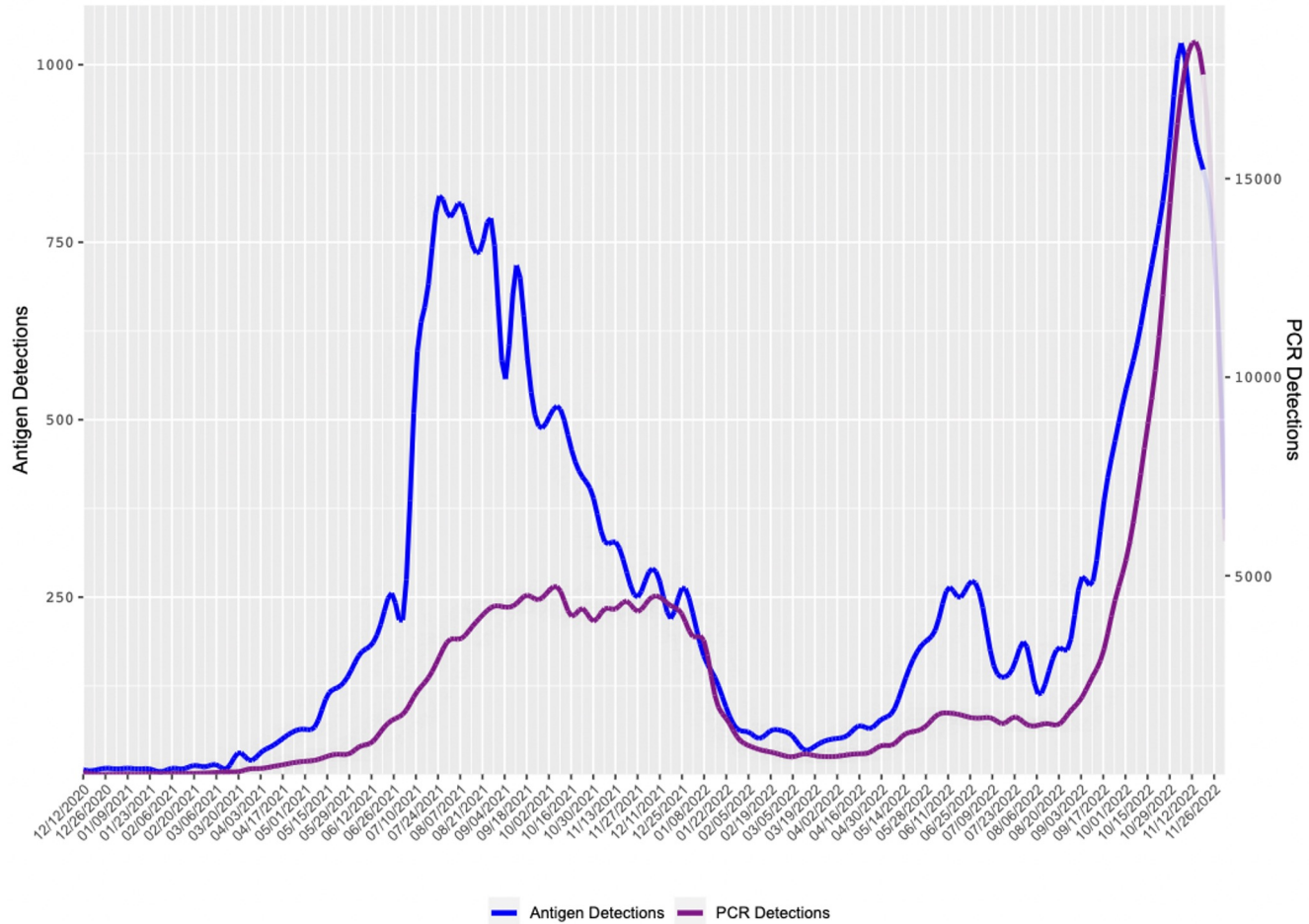
1. Optimizing practice & preparations
2. Early recognition of sick kids
3. Plan for escalating respiratory support
4. Ensure adequate equipment/supplies
5. Optimizing preparations for intubation
6. Innovations

2022-23 Influenza Season Week 48 ending Dec 03, 2022



Detections

RSV Numerator Data for the US



RSV

CDC National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS), <https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/natl-trend.html> accessed 12.9.2022

Video-Assisted Laryngoscopy for Pediatric Tracheal Intubation in the Emergency Department: A Multicenter Study of Clinical Outcomes

- ▶ 11 Academic Pediatric EDs
- ▶ Prospective observational data
- ▶ N = 1412 tracheal intubations
- ▶ Primary outcome: First-attempt success & adverse outcomes

Definitions

Adverse airway outcomes =

aspiration, cardiac arrest, dysrhythmia, hypotension requiring intervention, hypoxia (categorized as moderate when the lowest SpO₂ was less than 90% and severe when less than 80%), laryngospasm, lip or dental injury, mainstem bronchial intubation, mucosal injury, pneumothorax or pneumomediastinum, unrecognized esophageal intubation with delayed recognition and vomiting.

Severe adverse airway outcomes =

aspiration, cardiac arrest, hypotension, severe hypoxia, and unrecognized esophageal intubations.

Results

- ▶ **First-attempt success overall = 70%**
- ▶ Experienced at least 1 adverse airway outcome = 30.2%
- ▶ **Experienced severe adverse airway outcome = 17.3%**
- ▶ Experienced cardiac arrest = 2.0%
- ▶ Experienced severe hypoxia (spo2 <80%) = 18.7%

Other findings

- ▶ Use of VL = 30% reduction in odds ratio for experiencing severe adverse airway outcome
- ▶ Age <12 months and a respiratory indication for intubation = associated with decreased odds of 1st attempt success
- ▶ Use of NMB agent associated with higher odds of 1st attempt success

Other findings

- ▶ Pts receiving apneic oxygenation = 42.6%
- ▶ Most commonly used meds: Ketamine and Rocuronium
- ▶ Sites with high-use of VL (use VL >80% of time) had a higher rate of first-attempt success

My article take away

- ▶ Higher risk than adult intubations
- ▶ Preparation & practice may save lives and careers

IT'S TUNE UP TIME



SimBox Telesim

Telesim led by Dr. Liz Sanseau

SimBox Telesim Debrief:

How to recognize sick kids?

Mental framework of escalating steps of respiratory support?

How to arrange telesim or low fidelity sims?

Session overview

1. High stakes

2. Early recognition of sick kids

3. Escalating resp support

4. Equipment/supplies

5. Optimize intubation

6. Innovations

Recognizing Sick Kids: Pediatric Assessment Triangle



For panelists: Use sick/not sick gestalt? Or get specific?

RESPIRATORY SCORE (RS)

Variable	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points
<u>RR</u>				
<2 mo		≤60	61-69	≥70
2-12 mo		≤50	51-59	≥60
1-2 yr		≤40	41-44	≥45
<u>Retractions</u>	None	Subcostal or intercostal	2 of the following: subcostal, intercostal, substernal, OR nasal flaring (infant)	3 of the following: subcostal, intercostal, substernal, suprasternal, supraclavicular OR nasal flaring / head bobbing (infant)
<u>Dyspnea</u>				
0-2 years	Normal feeding, vocalizations and activity	1 of the following: difficulty feeding, decreased vocalization or agitated	2 of the following: difficulty feeding, decreased vocalization or agitated	Stops feeding, no vocalization or drowsy and confused
<u>Auscultation</u>	Normal breathing, no wheezing present	End-expiratory wheeze only	Expiratory wheeze only (greater than end- expiratory wheeze)	Inspiratory and expiratory wheeze OR diminished breath sounds OR both

Session overview

1. High stakes
2. Recognize sick kids

3. Plan escalating respiratory support

4. Equipment/supplies
5. Optimize intubation
6. Innovations

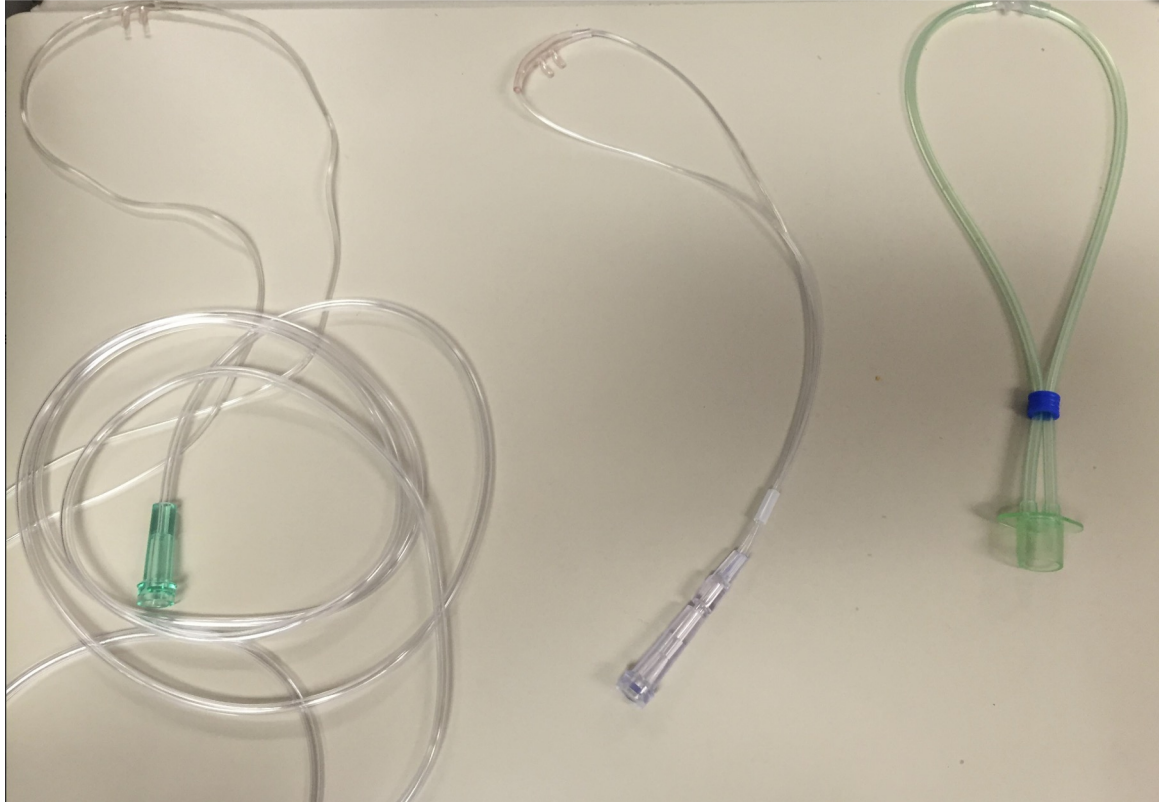
Escalation of Respiratory Support for Patients with Bronchiolitis

Sample Respiratory Support Escalation Guideline

Dr. Dom Maggio /
White River Apache
ED, Arizona

1. Nasal cannula 0-2L/min
 - a. Antipyretics
 - b. Suctioning q 2 hours
2. If persistent increased work of breathing or hypoxia -> HHFNC
 - a. Start @ 2 L/kg/min (max)
 - b. Titrate down based on WOB
 - c. Place IV / Consider IVF bolus
3. Persistent increased work of breathing -> CPAP (Hamilton setting "NIV")
 - a. PEEP = 5 - Titrate as needed up to PEEP of 10
 - b. NPO
 - c. IVF bolus / Maintenance IVF
 - d. Appropriately sized RAM Cannula
4. Persistent increased work of breathing -> BiPAP (Hamilton setting "NIV-ST")
 - a. FiO2 = 100% and titrate down - O2 sat target >93%
 - b. Back up rate = 25% of RR
 - c. P_{insp} = 5 - Titrate by 2 up to 15 (remember, this is a delta number)
 - d. PEEP = 5-10 (or what cpap was at) - Titrate to 10 as needed
5. Indications for Intubation
 - a. Episodes of apnea
 - b. Episodes of hypoxia on BIPAP
 - c. Persistent increased work of breathing despite maximal BIPAP settings

High Flow Nasal Cannula



Left: low-flow NC

Middle: HFNC

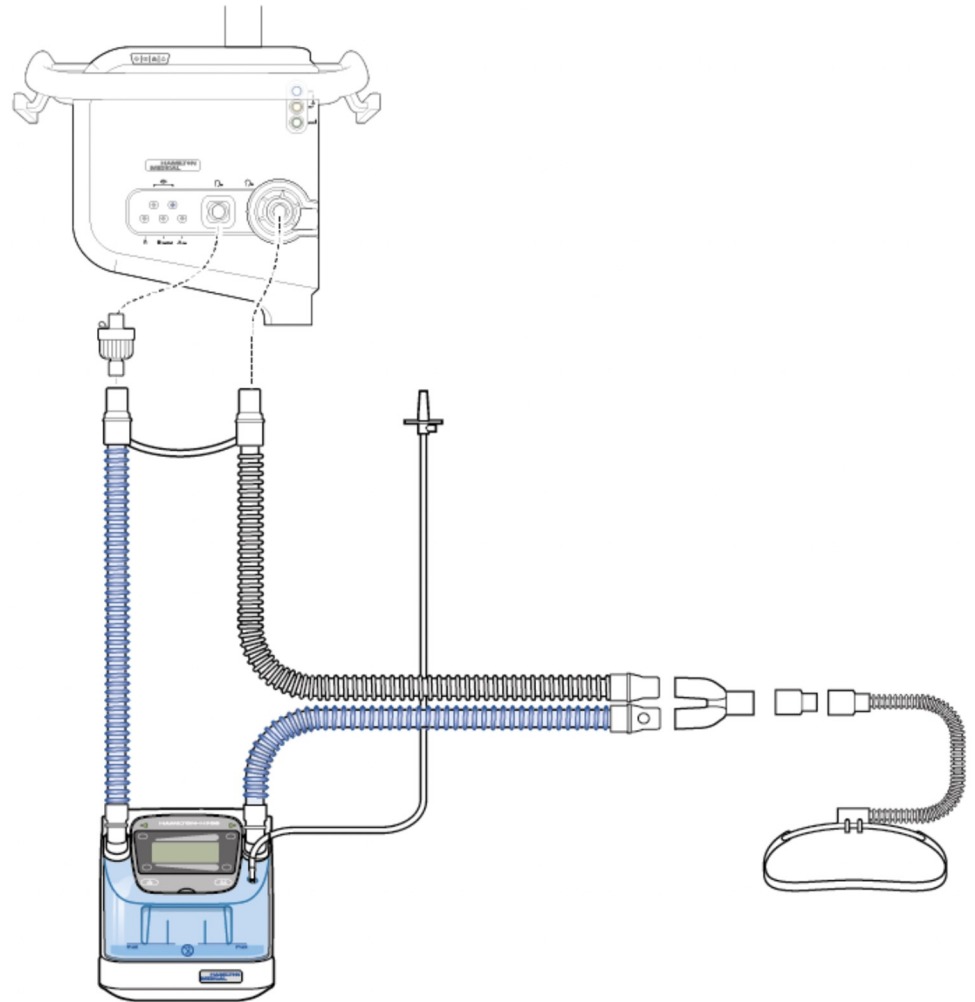
Right: Neotech "RAM" HFNC

[https://www.pedsurglibrary.com/apsa/view/Pediatric-Surgery-NaT/829021/all/Adjuncts_in_Respiratory_Care#:~:text=The%20RAM%20nasal%20cannula%20\(NeoTech,of%20breathing%20during%20](https://www.pedsurglibrary.com/apsa/view/Pediatric-Surgery-NaT/829021/all/Adjuncts_in_Respiratory_Care#:~:text=The%20RAM%20nasal%20cannula%20(NeoTech,of%20breathing%20during%20)

Example:
Hamilton machine
for HHFNC

Some machines can
be used for
mechanical
ventilation

https://www.hamilton-medical.com/en_US/Products/Technologies/High-flow-nasal-cannula-therapy.html



Clarifying terms

RAM cannula = brand name HFNC

Heated / humidified high flow vs
simple HFNC

Bubble CPAP (photo on right)

CPAP

BiPAP

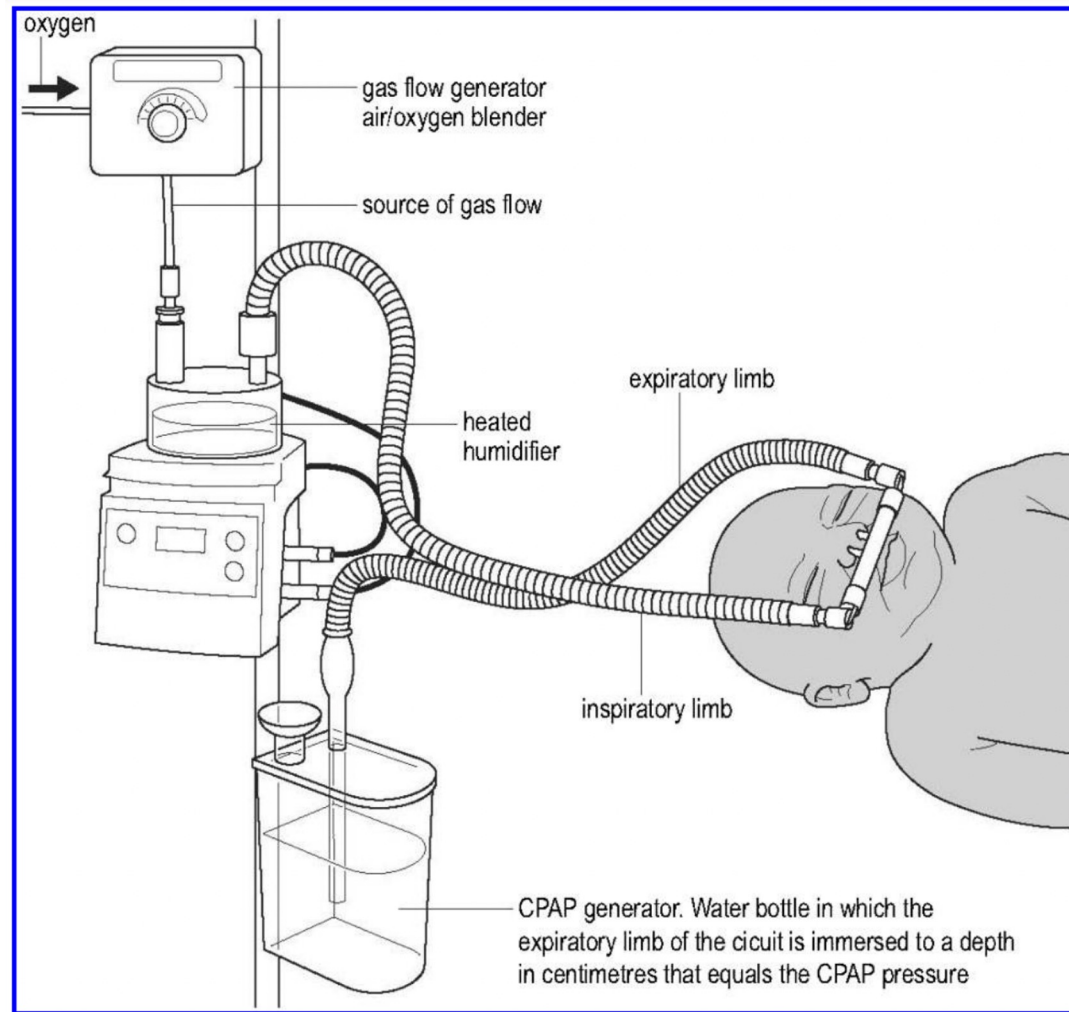


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of commercially available bubble CPAP system connected to an infant using close-fitting nasal prongs

EMS transfers

What can transport teams fly?

Avoid having EMS arrive and need to treat pt on lower level care for transport



Pediatric	Limitations
<p>>1 month and >5 kg generally (may be able to go lower)</p>	<p>RW+ FW - have RAM cannula for HFNC up to 25lpm, can do humidified can't heat yet. Will be getting Hamilton this year at somepoint (which will be able to humidify and heat). Bubble c-pap (max 12L and 10 PEEP). CPAP/BiPap. Case by case basis for O2 so make sure they know patient's settings.</p>
<p>Has neonatal resus team; + cooling, oscillaror, all resp</p>	<p>RW - intubated or low flow O2 only; **FW - no more than combo of 30LPM, 100% FiO2 (or 60LPM, 50%) due to O2 supply FW: has better capability INO</p>

Panelist question

What are the common problems you've faced regarding HFNC, CPAP, BiPAP escalation plan?

Equipment availability?

How to use it?

Decision making?

Escalating too early / too late?

Session overview

1. High stakes
2. Recognize sick kids
3. Escalating resp support

4. Do we have equipment/supplies?

5. Optimize intubation
6. Innovations

Operations: Equipment

For panelists: what equipment are you already running short on?

Advice on equipment people should look through now, to make sure they are prepared for what's coming?

And if you don't have X or Y, then order it now?

- Pediatric BP cuffs
- Peds pulse ox
- Peds size IVs
- Peds nasal cannula
- Peds HFNC
- Peds ETT sizes
- VL Miller 0 and 1 blades

Session overview

1. High stakes
2. Recognize sick kids
3. Escalating resp support
4. Equipment/supplies?

5. Optimize prep for safe intubations

6. Innovations

Panelist: Intubation tips

Shared mental model?

Use of checklist?

DL vs VL?

Apneic oxygenation?

Frequent pitfalls?

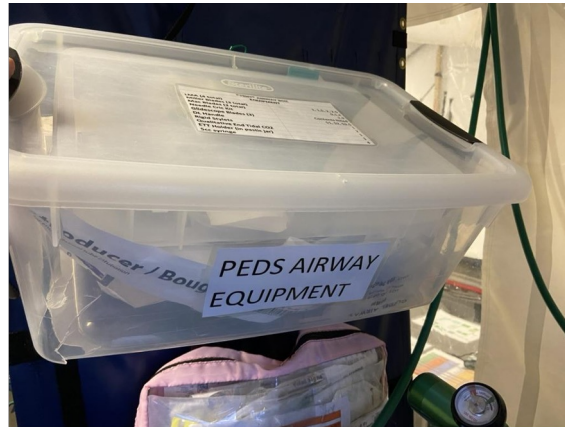


Operations: How do you organize things?

For panelists: Recommendations for making supplies accessible and reliable?

Pediatric airway cart? Airway bags? Airway box with a checklist taped to the side?

How do you ensure it is restocked correctly?



Notes:

Post-Intubation Steps

Actions:

- Ensure tube placement** and security
 - Verify placement (auscultation, capnography)
 - Secure tube
 - **Place OG tube (optional)**
 - Obtain CXR
- Review CXR**
- Order vent settings**
- Ensure post-intubation sedation**
- Avoid hyperoxia**



Intubation Briefing

Pre-arrival when possible

Actions:

- Assemble team**
 - Call RT, pharmacy (P/EDRU page), DART
- Gather equipment**
- Verbalize primary and backup plan**
- Verbalize drugs & doses**
- Address potential problems**
 - Evaluate for difficulty, hypoxia, hypotension
- Initiate preoxygenation**

DIFFICULT AIRWAY RESPONSE TEAM (DART) CALL 333

Intubation Timeout Checklist

Actions:

	CALL	RESPONSE
Equipment		
<input type="checkbox"/> Suction		Out and ready
<input type="checkbox"/> Backups (Bougie, iGel, BVM, OPA/NPA)		Out and ready
Patient		
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitors & end tidal CO₂		Attached and working
<input type="checkbox"/> Vascular access...		IV working
<input type="checkbox"/> Positioning...		Optimized
<input type="checkbox"/> Apneic oxygenation		Nasal canula on at 5 Lpm
Medications		
<input type="checkbox"/> Induction agent...		___ mg of ___ ready
<input type="checkbox"/> Paralytic...		___ mg of ___ ready
<input type="checkbox"/> Vasopressor...		Out and ready
Resuscitation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Last set of vitals...		BP is ___, HR ___, sats ___
<input type="checkbox"/> What concerns does anyone have? Quiet for induction please! Push medications.		

UNM ED Intubation Tool Supplemental Material

Pre-med (optional)	Weight-Based Dose	Max Dose
Atropine	0.02 mg/kg	0.5 mg
Commonly used in infants < 1 year, or children < 5 years when using succinylcholine		

Induction	Weight-Based Dose	Max Dose
Etomidate	0.2 - 0.4 mg/kg	30 mg
Ketamine	1.5 – 2 mg/kg	0.5 – 2 mg/kg
Ketamine IM Dosing	5 – 10 mg/kg IM	250 mg IM
Propofol	1.5 mg/kg	1.5 mg/kg

Paralytic	Weight-Based Dose	Max Dose
Rocuronium	1.2 - 1.5 mg/kg	80 mg
Succinylcholine*	1.5 mg/kg	1.5 mg/kg
Vecuronium	0.1 mg/kg	10 mg

*Beware malignant hyperthermia. Do not use in severe crush injury, rhabdo, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, 48 hours after burns, multiple trauma, denervating injury, or hyperkalemia.

Vasopressor	Weight-Based Dose	Max Dose
Epinephrine* 1:10,000	0.01 mg/kg 0.1 mL/kg	0.5 mg
*For PALS or ACLS		
Epinephrine – Push Dose	Data limited	10 - 100 mcg
Phenylephrine – Push Dose	Data limited	10 - 100 mcg

UNM ED Intubation Tool Supplemental Material

Peds Ventilator Strategies*

Mode	SIMV + VC
PEEP	5 cm H ₂ O
Tidal Volume	8 mL/kg
Pressure Support	10 cm H ₂ O
Backup Rate	24 breaths/min

*Routine settings (healthy lungs). Discuss settings with ICU **immediately** for patients with profound acidosis or those with asthma, bronchiolitis, or DKA.

Peds Post-Intubation Sedation

Push Dose (Recommended)

	Weight-Based Dose	Max Dose**
Fentanyl*	1-2 mcg/kg q5 min PRN	25 to 75 mcg q5-20 min PRN
Lorazepam	Not recommended	2-4 mg boluses q10-30 min PRN
Midazolam	0.1-0.2 mg/kg q5 min PRN	1-4 mg boluses q10-30 min PRN
Ketamine	0.5 mg/kg PRN (data limited)	0.5 mg/kg q10-20 min PRN

Infusions (Not-recommended)

Fentanyl*	Starting dose 1-2 mcg/kg/hr Titrate by 1 mcg/kg/hr	Starting dose 25-75 mcg/hr Titrate by 25 mcg/hr
Lorazepam	No data available	Starting dose 0.5-2 mg/hr Titrate by 0.5 mg/hr
Midazolam	Starting dose 0.06-0.12 mg/kg/hr Titrate by 0.06 mg/kg/hr	Starting dose 1-4 mg/hr Titrate by 1-2 mg/hr
Propofol	Starting dose 5-10 mcg/kg/min Titrate by 5 mcg/kg/min	Starting dose 5-10 mcg/kg/min Titrate by 5 mcg/kg/min

*Used for analgesia, not sedation

**Also see UNM Policy “Adult ICU Analgesia and Sedation”

Implementing Sims and Practice drills

Question for panelists: how are you preparing for these higher-risk situations?

Use of sims / hands on sessions?

Practice with VL vs DL?

Pediatric Endotracheal Intubation, Josh Nagler:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEa3E5tuVJM>

<https://www.maskinduction.com/atlas-of-pediatric-intubation-technique.html>

Session overview

1. High stakes
2. Recognize sick kids
3. Escalating resp support
4. Equipment/supplies?
5. Optimize intubation

6. Innovations

ED Observation Plan when no inpatient Peds

Dr. Dan Schnorr sharing innovation from San Carlos Apache ED

January 25, 2023 ECHO

9:30-11:00am MT

Dr. Dom Maggio / White
River Apache ED, Arizona

Escalation of Respiratory Support for Patients with Bronchiolitis

1. Nasal cannula 0-2L/min
 - a. Antipyretics
 - b. Suctioning q 2 hours
2. If persistent increased work of breathing or hypoxia -> HFNC
 - a. Start @ 2 L/kg/min (max)
 - b. Titrate down based on WOB
 - c. Place IV / Consider IVF bolus
3. Persistent increased work of breathing -> CPAP (Hamilton setting "NIV")
 - a. PEEP = 5 - Titrate as needed up to PEEP of 10
 - b. NPO
 - c. IVF bolus / Maintenance IVF
 - d. Appropriately sized RAM Cannula
4. Persistent increased work of breathing -> BiPAP (Hamilton setting "NIV-ST")
 - a. FiO2 = 100% and titrate down - O2 sat target >93%
 - b. Back up rate = 25% of RR
 - c. PInsp = 5 - Titrate by 2 up to 15 (remember, this is a delta number)
 - d. PEEP = 5-10 (or what cpap was at) - Titrate to 10 as needed
5. Indications for Intubation
 - a. Episodes of apnea
 - b. Episodes of hypoxia on BiPAP
 - c. Persistent increased work of breathing despite maximal BiPAP settings

Questions

Summary

1. High stakes, good time to optimize practice & preparations
2. Early recognition of sick kids
3. Plan for escalating respiratory support
4. Ensure adequate equipment/supplies
5. Optimizing preparations for intubation
6. Innovations

References

Dieckmann RA, Brownstein D, Gausche-Hill M. The pediatric assessment triangle: a novel approach for the rapid evaluation of children. *Pediatr Emerg Care*. 2010 Apr;26(4):312-5. doi: 10.1097/PEC.0b013e3181d6db37. PMID: 20386420.

Duke,T. CPAP: a guide for clinicians in developing countries, *Paediatrics and International Child Health*, 34(1), 2014, pp1-11.

Miller et al, Video Assisted Laryngoscopy for Pediatric Tracheal INTubation in the Emergency Department, *Annals of EM*, 10.15.2022.

Seattle children's links: <https://www.seattlechildrens.org/healthcare-professionals/gateway/clinical-resources/pathways/>

CHOP links: <https://www.chop.edu/pathways-library/emergency>

Guidelines for Shared Mental Models

What open-access resources are people using?

San Carlos Apache - Peds Respiratory Obs (PRO) Unit

Accepted admitting diagnosis:

Bronchiolitis
COVID
Flu
Pneumonia
Croup

Exclusion criteria:

Age < 3 months, corrected for gestational age
Pre-existing neurologic, cardiac or pulmonary comorbidity (except asthma, which is permitted as a comorbidity but not as an admitting diagnosis)
Status asthmaticus
Requires suctioning more frequently than Q2H
Requires racemic epinephrine > 2 doses
Requires > 2L O2
PO intolerance
Stridor at rest

SCAHC PRO Order Set

Nursing

- *Place on respiratory observation
- *Vital Signs on arrival to observation unit and Q6H
- *Activity level (ad lib)
- *Diet (normal diet)
- *Call ED Physician at x7327 for any concerns until 0600
- *Continuous pulse oximetry
- *Oxygen to maintain O2 sat > 94%
- *Bulb suctioning Q2H PRN

Insert IV

PRN Medications

Oral

- *Acetaminophen suspension ___ mg Q6H PRN fever
- *Ibuprofen suspension ___ mg Q6H PRN pain or fever not resolved with Acetaminophen
- *Ondansetron suspension ___ mg Q6H PRN nausea or vomiting

Nebulized

- Albuterol 2.5mg nebulized Q2H PRN wheezing or shortness of breath
- Albuterol 5mg/hr nebulized for _ hours
- Racemic Epinephrine Q1H PRN stridor (in comments: call the responding clinician)

Antibiotics

- Ceftriaxone 50mg/kg IV daily
- Azithromycin 10mg/kg IV daily
- Azithromycin suspension 5 mg/kg PO daily
- Doxycycline 2.2 mg/kg IV BID
- Doxycycline 2.2 mg/kg PO BID
- Amox-Clav suspension 45 mg/kg PO BID
- Cefdinir suspension 7 mg/kg PO BID

Consults

Pediatrics

Clinical Resources

Clinical Standard Work Pathways

At Seattle Children's, a clinical standard work (CSW) pathway is a documented approach to the management and treatment of a particular population or clinical condition. The aim is to improve quality of care through the

Also in This Section...

- [Overview](#)
- [Clinical Standard Work](#)

Seattle Children's: <https://www.seattlechildrens.org/healthcare-professionals/gateway/clinical-resources/pathways/>

<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/globalassets/documents/healthcare-professionals/clinical-standard-work/bronchiolitis-pathway.pdf> (Good for HFNC)

Emergency Department Clinical Pathway for Evaluation/Treatment of Children with Bronchiolitis

Goals and Metrics

Patient Education

Provider Resources

Related Pathways

[Bronchiolitis, Inpatient](#)
[Bronchiolitis, Oral/Enteral Feeding, ED and Inpatient](#)

Quality Story

[Reducing Albuterol Use in Children with Bronchiolitis](#)

Supportive Care

Suction
 Hydration, nutrition
 Supplemental oxygen
 Pulse oximetry
 Fever Management

Infant With Typical Bronchiolitis

Triage

History and Physical Initial Respiratory Assessment

Mild

Consider Suction-bulb

Discharge Criteria

Oxygen saturation > 90% awake
 Adequate oral intake
 Mild/moderate work of breathing
 Reliable caretaker
 Able to obtain follow-up care
 MDI/spacer teaching if response to albuterol

Moderate

Suction: Bulb
[Bronchodilators](#) not recommended for [typical bronchiolitis](#). If used, document reason and response.

Admission Criteria

Base decision on:
 Repeated assessments
 Response to therapy
 Stage of illness

Admit if discharge criteria not met:

Inpatient: Requires [HFNC](#), O₂ or progression expected

EDECUC: Mild disease with expected LOS < 24 hours

ICU: Apnea, severe distress

Additional Treatment Considerations

Albuterol Trial
 Racemic epinephrine
 Antibiotics
 Hypertonic Saline
[Further Diagnostic Testing](#)

Consider [ED Asthma Pathway](#) if:

Recurrent wheezing / prior steroid use
 Age > 12 months
 Strong response to albuterol

[Sample Bronchiolitis Pathway Patient Progression](#)
[Sample Bronchiolitis Pathway Patient Progression on HFNC](#)

Evidence

[Reducing Albuterol Use in Children With Bronchiolitis](#)

[Clinical Practice Guideline: The Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Bronchiolitis](#)

[A Randomized Trial of High-Flow Oxygen Therapy in Infants with Bronchiolitis](#)

Educational Media

[Bronchiolitis: A Scenario-Based Primer](#)

[MD/APP Learning Module](#)

[PEM Podcast: Bronchiolitis](#)

[Bronchiolitis Educational Video for Families](#)

Suction: Bulb or wall
[Bronchodilators](#) not recommended for [typical bronchiolitis](#). If used, document reason and response.
 If no improvement after suctioning, assess with attending at bedside to discuss additional treatment including initiating HFNC oxygen at 1.5 L/kg/minute – [View Job Aid](#)
 See [Enteral Feeding Guidelines](#)
 If required FIO₂ > 0.4 or continued severe distress despite increase to 2 L/kg/min / Max HFNC settings, initiate CPAP at 8 cm/0.4 Fio₂ and consult PICU.

CHOP

<https://www.chop.edu/clinical-pathway/bronchiolitis-emergent-evaluation-clinical-pathway>



INTRODUCTION

NEW HIRE ORIENTATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

HOSPITAL SERVICES

VILLAGE HEALTH

TELEHEALTH SERVICES

SPECIALTY CARE SERVICES

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

RESIDENTS

CLINICAL RESOURCES

SUPPORT SERVICES

Page Discussion

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Search Guide to YKHC Medical

Bronchiolitis / Wheezing – 3-24 Months

Wheezing is a common complaint on radio traffic. In infants, wheezing is most likely due to bronchiolitis or asthma. Listen carefully for a history of recurrent wheezing in the past as a clue toward asthma. For infants presenting for the first time or with associated stridor, think foreign body. Wheezing in older children should not be diagnosed as "bronchitis" as this is not a disease seen in children. Older wheezing children have asthma, a viral process or pneumonia. Be tuned in to a reported past history of undiagnosed bronchiectasis (productive cough greater than 3 months). These children should be seen in Pediatric Clinic for an evaluation.

Diagnosis: based on history and clinical presentation

Demographics: hospitalization rate for Alaska Native children 3x general population in some studies

Signs/Symptoms: cough, rhinorrhea, wheezing, respiratory distress, poor feeding

Risk Factors for Severe Disease:

- less than 12 weeks old
- prematurity <34 weeks
- history of cardiopulmonary disease
- anatomic airway defects
- neuromuscular disease
- immunodeficiency
- tobacco smoke exposure

Risk for Apnea:

- postconception age <48 weeks
- low birth weight
- tachypnea or respiratory depression
- low room air oxygen saturations

Management: see [Bronchiolitis/Wheezing YKHC Clinical Guideline](#)

Prevention:

- Good Hand Hygiene

WRAP-EM




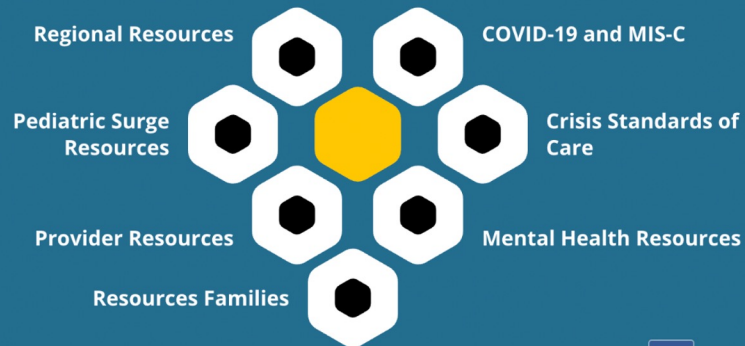
Pediatric Surge Resources

Multiple partner networks have provided pediatric surge resources to support the nation. Tools and strategies are available here [Pediatric Surge Resources](#)

WRAP-EM has compiled a “just in time” basic clinical guidance for respiratory care of children for providers with limited pediatric experience, **including High-Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) Protocols.** [Link to document](#)

WRAP-EM Mission

 develop regional pediatric disaster planning and response capabilities that effectively match resources to needs for



Just-in-Time Basic Clinical Guidance for Pediatric Respiratory Illness

Version 1

Background: This document addresses a unique educational need for physicians caring for pediatric patients in receiving center emergency departments. There are multiple facilities with limited pediatric capabilities that care for children as they await transfer or the opening of more high-level pediatric beds. Our intent is to provide basic clinical guidance for respiratory care for children to help in these circumstances. It is expected that this is most valuable as a “just in time” reference for providers with limited pediatric experience. It is not intended in scope to be a pediatric intensive care manual for respiratory illness, but rather the management of patients as they await transfer to a higher level or improvement in their clinical condition.

Critical disclosures:

*This document presents an evidence-based approach that is appropriate for most patients. It should be adapted to meet the needs of individual patients and situations and should not replace established protocols or clinical judgment.

*Ideal care for some of these children may be to transfer to a higher level of care and this guidance should not be used as a substitute for that when transfer is possible and clinically appropriate.

HHFNC logistics

Additional Information and HHFNC Initiation

HHFNC Mechanism of Action:

- Enhanced washout of CO₂
- Decreased inspiratory resistance by nasopharyngeal stenting
- Support of oxygenation by increasing mean airway pressure (MAP)
- Decreased work of breathing by enhanced humidification system

Definition & Mechanics

- Heated and highly humidified air-oxygen blend delivered via specialized cannula at high flow rates
- HFNC prongs are longer and more flexible than traditional prongs thereby reducing oxygen leakage
- The HFNC system has no audible alarms, so patients should remain on cardiopulmonary monitors.

HHFNC Pre-Initiation Considerations:

- Optimize nasal suctioning
- Administer an antipyretic for comfort
- Address hydration needs, consider bolus if clinically hydrated
- Low-flow nasal cannula for decreased saturation
- Monitor patient for 15-30 minutes following interventions

Fail

- Escalate care to HFNC or non-invasive positive pressure ventilation

- HR, RR stable or improved when calm?
- O₂ sats 90% or higher
- No clinical signs of deterioration

Pass

- Remains on RA or low-flow nasal cannula, if started

High Flow Nasal Cannula Initiation

Initiate flow at weight-based settings

(weight x 2 = flow rate in L/min, max 20 L/min)

- **Initiate FIO₂ at 0.4** and titrate FIO₂ to keep SpO₂ 89-94%
- **Reevaluate after initiation** every 30 minutes until stable or improving, then hourly x 4 hours