



ED MANAGEMENT OF APO +/- COVID (v1.2)

NO FEVER, NO ILI, NO EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CRITERIA (NO COVID PRECIPITANT / PRECIPITANT UNLIKELY)

Initial approach:

Sit patient up, manage patient in T2 or ISO (depending on level of community spread)

Oxygen titrated to $SpO_2 > 94\%$ via NP or mask O₂ 4-15L/min

Sublingual GTN tablets x2 if SBP >100mmHg

Request CXR and ECG for causes and comorbidities

Assess for ACS and other reversible causes

If SBP > 120mmHg:

Commence GTN infusion titrated rapidly until SBP < 120

Give IV furosemide 40mg or usual daily dose if fluid overload

Give titrated IV morphine 1-5mg only if pain or anxiety

If respiratory distress or high oxygen requirements:

Commence CPAP at 10cmH₂O and titrate to effect and SBP

If manual SBP < 90mmHg on arrival:

Review Goals of Patient Care and treat reversible causes

Consider inotropes, small volume fluid bolus, low dose GTN

Titrate IV fentanyl 10-50 mcg only if pain or anxiety

If ongoing hypoxia, distress or deterioration:

Review Goals of Patient Care

Prepare for intubation if ongoing deterioration

Rapid transfer to ICU

FEVER OR ILI OR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CRITERIA (COVID PRECIPITANT MORE LIKELY / COVID+)

Initial approach:

Sit patient up, manage patient preferably in ISO (especially if **RED**)

Use COVID O₂ Escalation Pathway

Sublingual GTN tablets x2 if SBP > 100mmHg

Request CXR and ECG for causes and comorbidities

Assess for ACS and other reversible causes

If SBP > 120mmHg:

Commence GTN infusion titrated rapidly until SBP < 120

Give IV furosemide 40mg or usual daily dose if fluid overload

Give titrated IV morphine 1-5mg only if pain or anxiety

If SBP < 90mmHg on arrival:

Review Goals of Patient Care and treat reversible causes

Consider inotropes, small volume fluid bolus, low dose GTN

Titrate IV fentanyl 10-50 mcg if pain or anxiety

If ongoing hypoxia, distress or deterioration:

Review Goals of Patient Care

CPAP* in ED or ICU/CCU: titrate from 5cmH₂O

Prepare for intubation if ongoing deterioration

Rapid transfer to ICU/Resp as per COVID transfer protocol

**To minimise risk: Use Hamilton machine with dual-limbed circuit, non-vented mask and viral filter, commence with lower pressures and titrate to effect*