



ED MANAGEMENT OF COPD +/- 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 SpO₂ 88-92%

Salbutamol MDI & spacer (4 puffs every 4 minutes x 4)

Ipratropium MDI & spacer (2 puffs every 4 minutes x 4)

Oral (or IV) antibiotics if known severe disease, increased volume or purulence of sputum

Consider corticosteroids if known asthma, eosinophils > 0.3

VBG screen for severity, ABG if pCO₂ > 45 or pH < 7.35

CXR for co-morbidities and complications

If severe (ABG pH < 7.3) or deterioration:

Salbutamol nebulisers 5mg continuously

Ipratropium nebulisers 500 mcg 6 hourly

Treat cause

Review Goals of Patient Care

Consider need for BiPAP NIV

If ongoing deterioration:

IV salbutamol bolus 500mcg over 10 minutes

IV salbutamol infusion 5mcg/min

BiPAP NIV

Prepare for intubation if ongoing deterioration

Rapid transfer to ICU/Resp

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 to SpO₂ 88-92%

Salbutamol MDI & spacer (4 puffs every 4 minutes x 4)

Ipratropium MDI & spacer (2 puffs every 4 minutes x 4)

Oral (or IV) antibiotics if known severe disease, increased volume or purulence of sputum

VBG screen for severity, ABG if pCO₂ > 45 or pH < 7.35

CXR for co-morbidities and complications

If severe (ABG pH < 7.3) or deterioration:

Repetitive MDI & spacer bronchodilators

Review Goals of Patient Care

Rapid transfer to ICU/Resp or manage in AIIR if available

If ongoing deterioration:

IV salbutamol bolus 500mcg over 10 minutes

IV salbutamol infusion 5mcg/min

BiPAP NIV* in ISO in ED or ICU/Resp

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*