**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