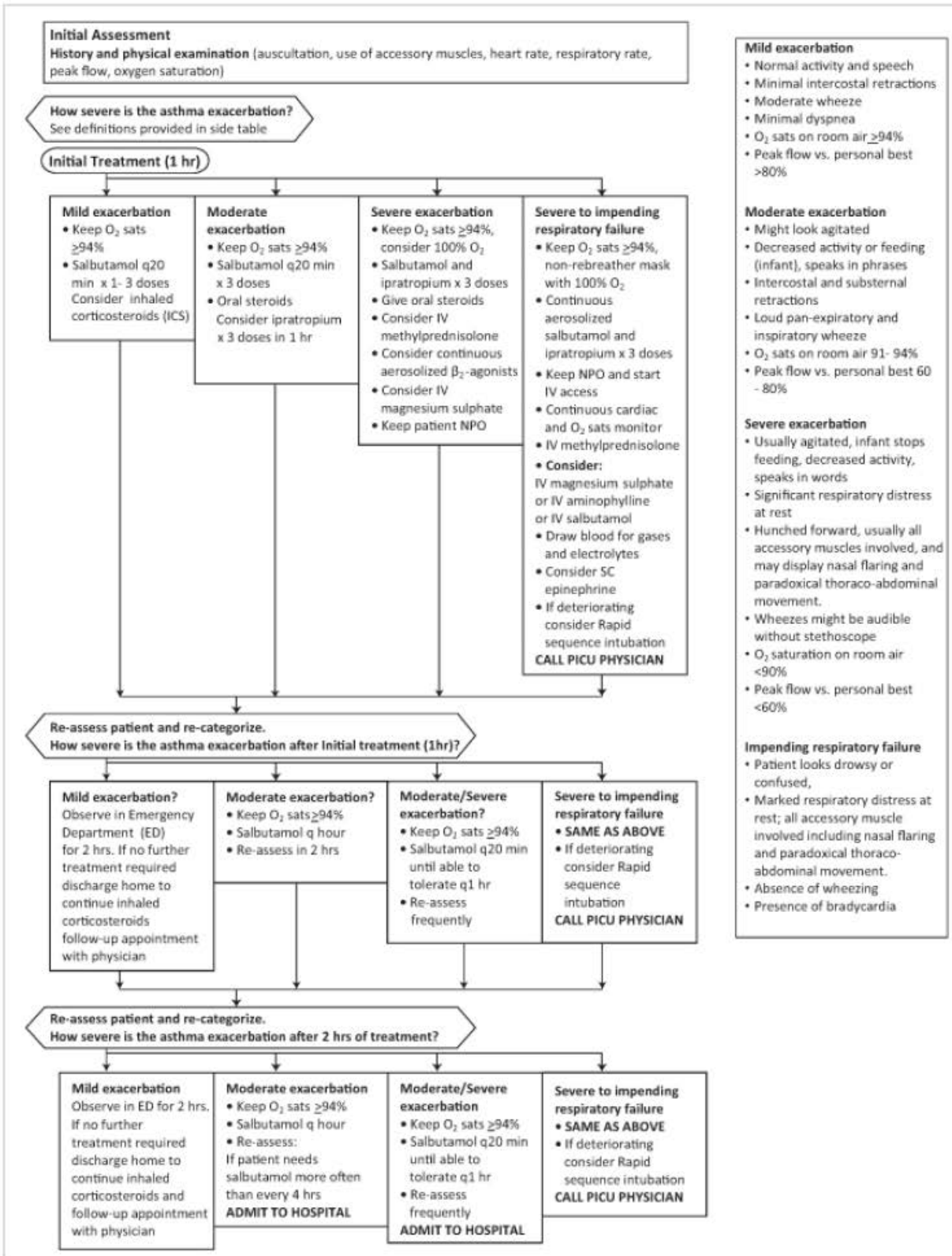


2012 CPS Guidelines for management of acute asthma exacerbation.

For complete article, click [here](#).



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Asthma severity	Drug and route	Dose (maximum)	Risks	Comment
Mild	inhaled corticosteroids	See discharge plan and <a href="#">Table 3</a>		
Moderate*	salbutamol, MDI with spacer	<20 kg = 5 puffs (0.1 mg/puff), >20 kg = 10 puffs every 20 min during the first h		Preferable route
	salbutamol, intermittent nebulization	5 mg in 2 ml of normal saline to be given every 20 min during the first h		Monitor potassium serum levels in patients requiring frequent doses
	oral corticosteroids	prednisone or prednisolone 1 to 2 mg/kg/day  (maximum 60 mg) OR dexamethasone 0.15–0.3 mg/kg/day (maximum 10 mg)	Prolonged course or frequently repeated doses can be associated with adrenal suppression	Start treatment early. Recommended as one single dose in the morning to decrease risk of adrenal suppression
	ipratropium bromide, MDI/spacer	Puffs (20 µg) every 20 min x 3 doses <20 kg = 3 puffs >20 kg = 6 puffs		Use with caution in children with soy allergy
Severe†	salbutamol, continuous nebulization	0.3 mg/kg/hr 5 mg in 4 ml of normal saline	Tachycardia, hypokalemia, hyperglycemia	Monitor heart rhythm and rate, glucose and electrolytes
	ipratropium, bromide nebulized	<20 kg = 0.25 mg, >20 kg = 0.5 mg every 20 min maximum 3 doses		Can be mixed with salbutamol aerosols
	IV corticosteroids	methylprednisolone: 1–2 mg/kg/dose (maximum 60 mg q.6 h) hydrocortisone: 5–7 mg/kg (maximum 400 mg q.6 h)		
Severe to impending respiratory failure	IV magnesium sulfate	25–50 mg/kg IV bolus over 20 min (maximum 2 g)	Hypotension	Consider if patient is not improving
	IV salbutamol	Load: 7.5 mcg/kg over 2–5 min, followed by 1 mcg/kg/min. Titrate upwards with increments of 1 mcg/kg/min (maximum 5 mcg/kg/min)	Tachycardia, hypokalemia, hyperglycemia	Monitor heart rhythm and rate, glucose and electrolytes

\* Conventional treatment: Oral corticosteroids, nebulized salbutamol ± ipratropium  
 † Maximized treatment: IV steroids, continuous nebulized salbutamol + ipratropium  
 MDI = metered dose inhaler