DEPARTMENT: Poudre Valley Hospital Emergency Medical Services	POLICY DESCRIPTION: Albuterol Sulfate
PAGE: 1	REPLACES POLICY DATED:
APPROVED: 03/03/2015	RETIRED:
EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/03/2015	REFERENCE NUMBER: 5020

Albuterol Sulfate

SCOPE:

Poudre Valley Hospital EMS and represented Northern Colorado services [See page 1]

PURPOSE:

To define the use of albuterol sulfate

INDICATIONS:

A. For relief of bronchospasm in asthma, COPD, or allergic reaction
B. Indications for MDI patient assisted delivery includes bronchospasm in a patient who has their own inhaler which is prescribed to him or her

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

A. Pulmonary Edema
B. Acute Coronary Syndrome
C. Known hypersensitivity to Albuterol or any other ingredient in the product

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES:

Protocol: Albuterol	**EMT- B**	**EMT - IV**	**EMT-I**	**EMT-P**
Bronchospasm (Nebulized Albuterol)				
Adults and children >6 months: 2.5mg in 3.0ml of normal saline. Deliver using 6-8 LPM of oxygen via nebulizer. Paramedics may repeat up to 3 doses on standing order.	DO	DO	SO	SO
Pediatrics < 6 months: use 2.5mg in 6ml and administer via nebulizer as described above.	DO	DO	SO	SO
In-line nebulizer treatment for the intubated patient have the same dosing as above			SO	SO
MDI delivery (Patient assisted)				
Make sure the patient is alert enough to use the inhaler. Check the medication name, prescribed dose, and expiration. If the patient has not already taken the prescribed dose, assist patient with medication as directed.	PAM/DO	PAM/DO	PAM	PAM

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A. Albuterol can cause ventricular arrhythmias. It should be stopped in the setting of tachyarrhythmia. Keep in mind that a patient in extremis from asthma or anaphylaxis might have arrhythmias secondary to cardiopulmonary collapse as well.
B. If there is no history of airway disease, consider allergic reaction.
C. Epinephrine is the first line drug for anaphylaxis, not albuterol.
D. Older patients with no history of asthma or COPD should be scrutinized for pulmonary edema or infection as a cause of wheezing.