

CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP)

ADVANCED EMT / PARAMEDIC

1. Shortness of breath AND:
 - Evidence of respiratory distress (accessory muscles, tachypnea)
 - Open airway
 - Over 12 years old and able to fit the CPAP mask

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Pneumothorax
- Respiratory arrest
- Uncontrolled vomiting

PROCEDURE

1. Start CPAP at ambient pressure
 - 0 cm/H₂O
2. Slowly titrate the pressure to patient comfort and clinical improvement:
 - 9. CHF: maximum 10 cm/H₂O**
 - 10. All other shortness of breath / dyspnea: (COPD, Asthma, etc.): 5 cm/H₂O**
3. If persistently hypotensive, may need to consider discontinuing CPAP