

Urgent Care Asthma Care Algorithm

Revised 01-17-2025

UC patient presenting with clinical concern for Asthma

Perform
Pre-treatment
PRAM*

Consider severe treatment initially if
scheduled albuterol at home or difficult to
treat asthmatics

Mild
0-3

Moderate
4-7

Severe
8-12

Impending Respiratory
Failure (Lethargy,
Cyanosis, ↓Respiratory
Effort, ↑pCO₂)

- Albuterol MDI & Spacer
 < 15kg: 4 puffs
 ≥ 15kg: 8 puffs
- +/- Dexamethasone

- 3 BTB Albuterol MDI & Spacer
- Dexamethasone

- 3 BTB Albuterol/
Atrovent nebs
(traditional jet neb)
- Dexamethasone

- IM Epinephrine
- Dexamethasone
- 3 BTB Albuterol/
Atrovent nebs
(traditional jet nebs)

D/C Home with Albuterol +/-
Dex in hand

Consider rapid
reassessment
and remain at
NUC if
improving and
likely D/C
home

PRAM < 4

Keep at Urgent Care

Immediate
Post-Treatment
PRAM*

911 (NUC) vs. Rapid
Transfer (BUC/LUC)

PRAM
30 min Post-
Treatment*

PRAM ≥ 4

PRAM < 4

PRAM ≥ 4

Keep at Urgent Care

Send to ED

PRAM 60min Post-
Treatment*

PRAM ≥ 4

PRAM < 4

D/C Home with Albuterol and
Dex in-hand

* Re-assess with each PRAM score to verify response is
consistent with diagnosis of asthma/reactive airway disease.

PRAM scoring table

Criteria	Description	Score	
O₂ saturation	≥ 95%	0	
	92-94%	1	
	< 92%	2	
Suprasternal retraction	Absent	0	
	Present	2	
Scalene muscle contraction	Absent	0	
	Present	2	
Air entry *	Normal	0	
	↓ at the base	1	
	↓ at the apex and the base	2	
	Minimal or absent	3	
Wheezing †	Absent	0	
	Expiratory only	1	
	Inspiratory (± expiratory)	2	
	Audible without stethoscope or silent chest (minimal or no air entry)	3	
PRAM score ; (max. 12)			
Score	0-3	4-7	8-12
Severity	Mild	Moderate	Severe

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* In case of asymmetry, the most severely affected (apex-base) lung field (right or left, anterior or posterior) will determine the rating of the criterion.

† In case of asymmetry, the two most severely affected auscultation zones, irrespectively of their location (RUL, RML, RLL, LUL, LLL), will determine the rating of the criterion.

Medications in ED

- Albuterol and Atrovent
- Dexamethasone 0.6mg/kg (max 10mg) PO/IV/IM
- Magnesium Sulfate 50mg/kg (max 2gm) IV

Medications for D/C

- < 15kg:
- Albuterol MDI & Spacer 4 puffs (Q4hr x 24 hrs then Q6 hrs prn)
 - Dexamethasone 6mg PO dispensed from pyxis (to be given 36 hrs after initial dose)
- ≥ 15kg:
- Albuterol MDI & Spacer 6 puffs (Q4hr x 24 hrs then Q6 hrs prn)
 - Dexamethasone 10mg PO dispensed from pyxis (to be given 36 hrs after initial dose)

Medications in UC

- Albuterol and Atrovent
 - Dexamethasone 0.6mg/kg (max 10mg) PO/IV/IM
 - Epinephrine (1 mg/ml) KIT
- < 10kg: 0.1mg (0.1 mL) IM
 10-25kg: 0.15mg (0.15 mL) IM
 ≥ 25kg: 0.3mg (0.3 mL) IM

Medications for D/C

All: Encourage use of known home action plan/rescue meds if applicable (including SMART – Single Maintenance And Reliever Therapy with an inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting beta-agonist; reach out to managing specialist if needed)

- < 15kg:
- Albuterol MDI & Spacer 4 puffs (Q4hr x 24 hrs then Q6 hrs prn)
 - Dexamethasone 6mg PO dispensed from pyxis (to be given 36 hrs after initial dose)
- ≥ 15kg:
- Albuterol MDI & Spacer 6 puffs (Q4hr x 24 hrs then Q6 hrs prn)
 - Dexamethasone 10mg PO dispensed from pyxis (to be given 36 hrs after initial dose)