



## **414A –NEW: Clarification of #414 – Respiratory Distress Patients**

---

There has been concern about patients whom would benefit from Beta Agonist Therapy not receiving the needed treatment. In policy 414, it states that if the breath sounds are clear and the blood pressure is above 90 mm Hg then supportive therapy. If indicated, please note that in patients who are experiencing severe bronchospasm, in both Asthma and Emphysema (COPD), the breath sounds may sound clear, yet diminished. This is due to a decreased tidal volume and not moving enough air to create audible wheezing. This subset of patients has severe bronchospasm and are in extremis, requiring treatment. If the breath sounds are diminished then treat the patient with Beta Agonists. This is particularly true in patients who have a history of COPD and/ or Asthma. You may treat patients who have a blood pressure either above or below 90 mm Hg.