

**Vermont EMS District 3**

**Procedure:** Intermediate interventions for difficulty breathing

**Provider Level:** EMT-Intermediate and above

**Effective date:** 2/13/04    **Replaces:** Difficulty Breathing, Section IV, Page 4,  
Vermont Selected EMS Protocol, 10/03

Changes below in italics and underlined:

DIFFICULTY BREATHING

If the patient's airway is obstructed by a foreign body:

Basic and intermediate

- A. Follow nationally recognized guidelines for relief of foreign body airway obstruction

Intermediate interventions (in addition to above)

Acute exacerbation of asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

- A. *If allowed and ordered by online medical direction*, Administer Albuterol
  - a. A patient over 12 years of age may take *2 – 4* puffs of an inhaler; or
  - b. Nebulize 2.5 mg in 2.5 ml NS (this is 0.5 ml of 0.5% solution in 2.5 ml NS).

Pulmonary edema

- A. *If allowed and ordered by online medical direction, administer nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL or 0.4 mg nitroglycerin spray*

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District Board Chair

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Medical Director