

PICU / IPU Asthma Weaning Protocol

HASS Scoring (5-15)

HASS Tool Explained



Patients admitted to BBCH with asthma
Age 24 months - 18 years-old

Scoring to be done pre-treatment and recorded
under Peds HASS under scoring tools in EPIC

**Guidelines are
not meant to
replace clinical
judgement**

Mild (Score 5-6)

- Proceed to next phase in wean

Moderate (Score 7-9)

- Maintain current dose*
- If score 7 and stable for >4 hours, consider advancing to next phase, discuss with provider

Severe (Score 10-15)

- Contact provider, consider stepping back phase or additional therapies**

* If elevated HASS due to oxygen need without dyspnea, retractions, or significant wheeze, consider advancing to next phase. Discuss with provider.

** Consider IV Magnesium Sulfate 50 mg/kg (max 2g) if not already given. Use on IPU at attending discretion. PICU Consult if HASS >9.

- Reassess after treatment, consider further escalation in therapy if score remains elevated

Continuous Albuterol (PICU)

Suggested starting doses:

- <20kg: 10mg/hr
- 20-39kg: 15mg/hr
- >40kg: 20mg/hr

Wean dose by 5mg/hr if score is "mild" down to 5mg/hr before moving to next phase

Phase I (PICU)

- Albuterol 5mg/ hr for 2 hours

Phase II (PICU / IPU)

Albuterol neb q2h

- <20kg: 2.5mg
- >20kg: 5mg

Or

Albuterol MDI q2h w/ spacer

- <20kg: 4 puffs
- >20kg: 8 puffs

Can also transition to po steroids if not already done

Phase III (PICU / IPU)

Albuterol q3h

- Same dosing as prior phase

Phase IV (PICU / IPU)

Albuterol neb q4h

- Same dosing as prior phase
- Consider weaning dose to 4 puffs / 2.5mg nebs if stable at q4

Requirements for discharge:

- Spaced to q4h (1-2 treatments)
 - Goal 4 puffs or 2.5mg neb q4h scheduled
- Asthma action plan completed
- Teaching with MDI / spacer completed
 - Family / patient demonstrates appropriate technique
- Has meds in hand or meds at home
- Follow-up scheduled w/ PCP +/- pulmonology

- If dexamethasone was given in ED, patient should receive 2nd dose at 24 hours from first dose (0.6mg/kg – 16mg max). Other options include prednisolone liquid or prednisone tabs 1 mg/kg/day, duration dependent on clinical status.

References:

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- Abecassis L, Gaffin JM, Forbes PW, Schenkel SR, McBride S, DeGrazia M. Validation of the Hospital Asthma Severity Score (HASS) in children ages 2-18 years old. *J Asthma*. 2022 Feb;59(2):315-324. doi: 10.1080/02770903.2020.1852414. Epub 2020 Dec 2. PMID: 33198536.
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