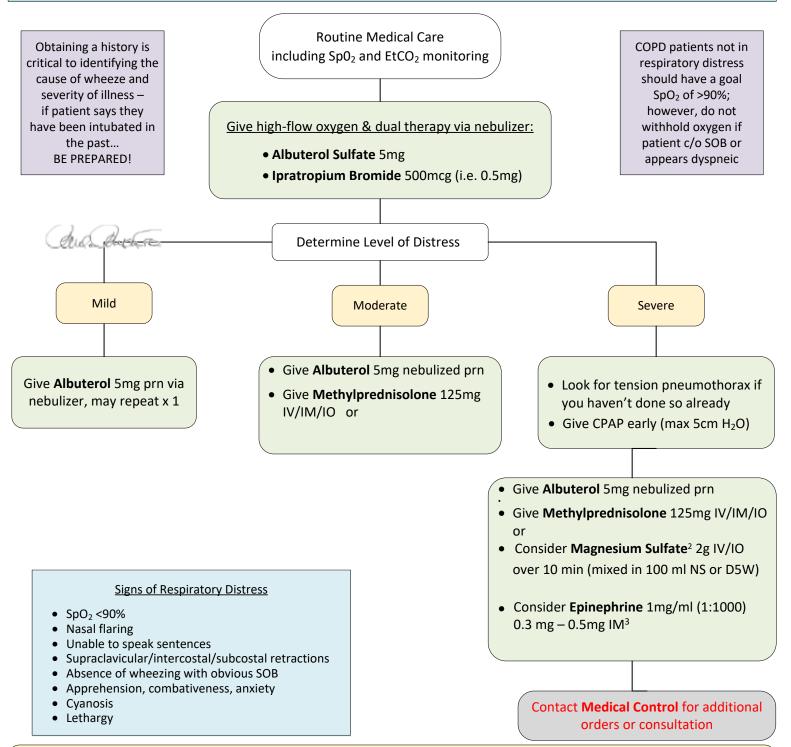
Wheezing/Bronchospasm

Consider pulmonary & non-pulmonary causes: pulmonary edema ("cardiac asthma"), MI, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, pneumothorax



1 Bronchospasm will cause the EtCO₂ (capnography) waveform to have a "shark-fin" appearance. The more pronounced the shark fin and the higher the EtCO₂, the greater the risk of respiratory failure. <u>Treat aggressively, but manage airway in the least invasive way possible.</u>

Remember, corticosteroids will not have an immediate effect – they will help resolve bronchospasm over hours and decrease hospital length of stay.

²Magnesium Sulfate may cause hypotension; be prepared to give patient a fluid bolus if needed. Consider the risk and benefits of its use ^{prior} to administering Magnesium Sulfate to patients with renal failure.

³ IM administration of epinephrine is recognized as generally safe. Adverse cardiovascular events are most common when Epi is given IV. Consider the risks & benefits of Epi use in patients >60yo or persons with a cardiac history. Consult **Medical Control** if you need guidance.