Oxygen (O2)

ACTION: Medical Gas

- Essential for cellular metabolism and survival**.**
- First drug used for respiratory compromise, or any time hypoxia is possible.

INDICATIONS:

- All patients with cardiopulmonary emergencies.
- Respiratory emergencies, including any patient who complains of shortness of breath.
- Chest pain.
- Suspected hypoxemia.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Do NOT withhold oxygen from anyone who might need it.

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

Nasal Cannula: 2 to 6 liters/min (delivers 24 to 44% oxygen). 15 LPM for apneic oxygenation during endotracheal intubation
Nonrebreather Mask: 10 to 15 liters/min (delivers 85 to 95% oxygen).
⇨ **BVM with O2 Reservoir**: 15 to 25 liters/min (delivers 85 to 95% oxygen).

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

Nasal Cannula: 2 to 4 liters/min (delivers 24 to 38% oxygen). 15 LPM for apneic oxygenation during endotracheal intubation
Nonrebreather Mask: 10 to 12 liters/min (delivers 85 to 95% oxygen).
BVM with O2 Reservoir: 10 to 15 liters/min (delivers 60 to 95% oxygen).

NOTES:

- Target oxygen saturation levels when administering O2 is 94 – 95%.
- Never withhold oxygen from anyone who might need it.
- Observe COPD patients closely and be prepared to ventilate them with BVM if necessary (development of apnea or increasing signs of respiratory failure).
- Apneic oxygenation during intubation should be delivered whenever two sources of oxygen are readily available.