



Discharge Criteria:
All of the following:

- Resolution of respiratory distress
- Resolution of hypoxemia (SpO₂ ≥90% on room air)
- Does not require albuterol more frequently than q4 hours
- Ability of caregiver to provide q4h albuterol at home

Discharge checklist:

- Continue yellow zone therapies on discharge
- Consider "stepping up" green zone therapies
- Asthma Action Plan and [asthma education provided](#)
- Appropriate follow-up arranged with either PCP or Asthma Provider
- Confirm pt has access to prescribed medications within 2-3 hours after discharge

Other Resources:

- [Asthma Reference Guide](#)
- [Caregiver Smoking Cessation](#)

Intensive Care Indications:
Any of the following:

- Prolonged continuous albuterol for >4 hrs with worsening symptoms
- Inadequate ventilation with hypercapnea (PCO₂ on capillary blood gas >45)
- Need for high flow nasal cannula or non-invasive ventilation
- Persistent hypoxemia (SpO₂ <90%) despite supplemental O₂ (≥3 LPM or >50% FiO₂ with non-rebreather)
- Altered level of consciousness (drowsiness)

Criteria for Transfer out of ICU:

- Does not meet any of the above "Intensive Care Criteria"

AND

- Spaced to intermittent albuterol (q2 or less frequent)

Abbreviations (laboratory/radiology studies excluded):
MDI = Metered Dose Inhaler
PeP = Positive Expiratory Pressure
RT = Respiratory Therapy
SpO₂ = Saturation of Peripheral Oxygen