



# ONTARIO BASE HOSPITAL GROUP MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Considerations for Paramedics Managing Patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Summary of Changes

TO: Ontario Paramedics  
FROM: Ontario Base Hospital Group—Medical Advisory Committee (OBHG MAC)  
DATE: February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
RE: **Considerations for Paramedics Managing Patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic:  
Summary of changes**

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The following changes/updates have been made to the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Considerations document and the recently released January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 memo.

### Introduction

A paragraph has been added to reinforce the availability and opportunity to consult with a Base Hospital Physician regarding these complex situations.

### Part A – ALS PCS Medical Directives with COVID-19 Treatment Considerations

#### 3. Bronchoconstriction Medical Directive

##### Salbutamol:

The document has been updated to withhold the administration of MDI salbutamol **ONLY** in the setting of mild respiratory distress. Previously the restriction was for mild to moderate respiratory distress.

##### Salbutamol:

The restriction regarding a cough has been removed. In the setting of moderate or severe respiratory distress, MDI salbutamol may be administered in the presence of a cough or not.

##### Epinephrine:

This was updated in the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 memo and remains in place that IM epinephrine is to be withheld for patients  $\geq 50$  years old. The rationale is based on the risk of increasing risk related to cardiovascular complications. The complete rationale and reference document is provided in the updated, February 10<sup>th</sup> considerations document under the Bronchoconstriction Medical Directive (Section 3, Page 4).

A clarification is provided regarding the indicated use for IM epinephrine in bronchoconstriction – ie: less than 50 years old, BVM ventilation required and a history of asthma.



## ONTARIO BASE HOSPITAL GROUP MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Dionne, CCFP(EM)  
Co-Chair OBHG MAC  
Medical Director  
Regional Paramedic Program  
for Eastern Ontario Associate Professor,  
Emergency Medicine, University of Ottawa

Andy Benson  
Co-Chair OBHG MAC  
Clinical Manager  
Central East Prehospital Care Program