

## OXYGEN (O<sub>2</sub>)

### **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).
- ⇒ **Nonrebreather Mask:** 10 to 15 liters/min (delivers 85 to 95% oxygen).
- ⇒ **BVM with O<sub>2</sub> 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).
- ⇒ **Nonrebreather Mask:** 10 to 12 liters/min (delivers 85 to 95% oxygen).
- ⇒ **BVM with O<sub>2</sub> Reservoir:** 10 to 15 liters/min (delivers 60 to 95% oxygen).

### **NOTES:**

- Target oxygen saturation levels when administering O<sub>2</sub> 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).

*Effective: 11/01/17  
Supersedes: 03/01/15*