



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
Division of Operations
Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

Office of Medical Oversight Clinical Practice Guideline

Title:	Albuterol by BLS Clinicians	Number:	2022 – 03
Date:	July 5, 2022		
Issued by:	Roger M. Stone MD, MS – MCFRS Medical Director		
Purpose:	To define level of care expectations for patients requiring albuterol		
Target Patient Population:	All patients who receive albuterol		
Guideline:	<p>The Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services includes albuterol for BLS clinicians. The intent is to provide faster treatment for acute restrictive respiratory distress until the arrival of ALS, not to replace ALS.</p> <p>There are intentionally no BLS dispatches for trouble breathing complaints. Respiratory distress patients require ALS assessment at minimum and frequently require ALS treatment.</p> <p>ALS to BLS downgrade decisions are governed by FCGO 20-07. Patients with high-risk chief complaints or those who receive medications other than oxygen or oral glucose do not pass the ALS to BLS downgrade checklist, a situation that favors ALS transport.</p> <p>Downgrade is strongly discouraged for patients whose conditions require the administration of albuterol because there is a likely need for further medications and continuous monitoring at the ALS level.</p> <p>Questions may be directed to any assigned EMS Duty Officer.</p>		