

# Differences in Adult Asthma Treatment

Paramedic

Intensive Care

Extended Care

Specialist

## Method

Produced October 2022. This poster is a descriptive analysis and comparison of a specific and discrete cluster of primary sources. All of the ten jurisdictional services have open access Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). Content was extracted by a registered paramedic, with oversight from two senior lecturers in paramedicine. Scope of practice was classified as 'Paramedic' (undergraduate degree, represented by a ✓), 'Intensive Care Paramedic' (intensive care postgraduate degree), 'Extended Care Paramedic' (primary care postgraduate degree), or 'Specialist' (all other advanced roles, e.g. Retrievalist). Standard, routine cares such as oxygenation were omitted for brevity, as were other complaints and/or conditions covered under their own, separate CPG (such as agitation management with Ketamine). This comparison does not review the peer-reviewed, published literature to determine current best practice in treatment. Consequently, no CPG is inferred to be superior or inferior to any other, nor that the most common treatment is necessarily optimal. This resource is created purely to assist making paramedics aware of current Australasian treatment options across JASs.

Jurisdiction (Service)	Pharmacology										Interventions							
	Adrenergic				Anticholinergic	Corticosteroid			Electrolyte	Assessment	Ventilation support			Expiratory chest squeeze	Endotracheal intubation		Apnoeic period (arrest)	
	Salbutamol	Adrenaline	Ipratropium Bromide	Prednisolone		Dexamethasone	Hydrocortisone	Magnesium			CPAP	BiPAP	PEEP		Unassisted (arrest)	KOBI, IFS	RSI, DSI	
Northern Territory (SJNT)	✓				✓	✓			✓					✓	✓	ICP	ICP	(a)
Aus. Capital Territory (ACTAS)	✓															ICP	ICP	ICP
New South Wales (NSWA)	✓				✓	✓			ECP		✓					ICP		
New Zealand (SJNZ)	✓				✓	✓			✓							ICP		ICP
New Zealand (WFA)	✓				✓	✓			✓							ICP		ICP
Queensland (QAS)	✓		Specialist (b)		✓	✓										ICP	Specialist (c)	
South Australia (SAAS)	✓				✓	✓										ICP	Specialist (d)	
Tasmania (AT)	✓	ICP			✓	ICP			✓							ICP		
Victoria (AV)	✓			ICP (e)		✓	ICP									ICP		✓
Western Australia (SJWA)	✓				✓											ICP		

BiPAP = Biphasic positive airway pressure CPAP = Continuous positive airway pressure DSi = Delayed sequence induction ECP = Extended care paramedic ICP = Intensive care paramedic IFS = Intubation facilitated by sedation KOBI = Ketamine only breathing intubation PEEP = Positive end expiratory pressure PEFR = Peak expiratory flow rate RSI = Rapid sequence induction

(a) Consider (b) ICP – "Flight Critical Care Paramedic" with medical approval only (c) ICP "High Acuity Response Unit" Paramedic only (d) ICP – "Retrieval Paramedic" only (e) Intravenous boluses available to Paramedics on consultation (f) ICP "Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic Flight Paramedic" only

## Pathology flowchart

