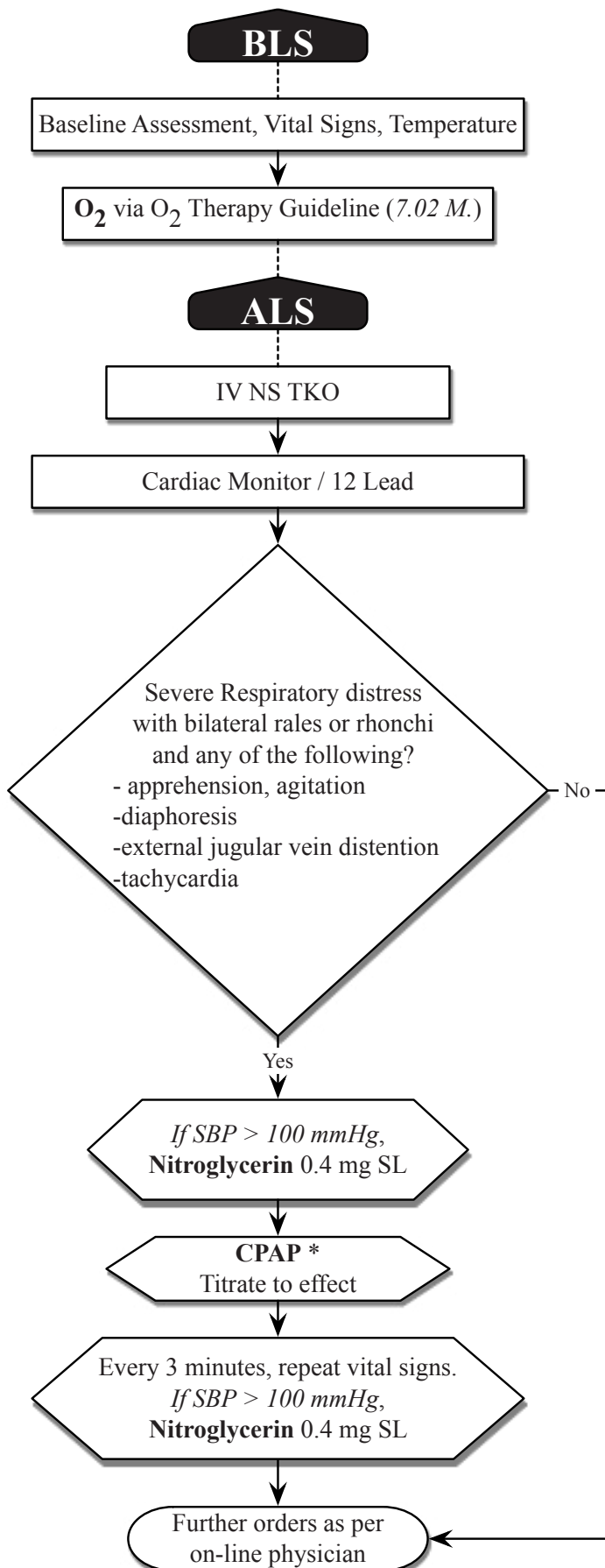


### 8.03 J. Breathing Difficulty : Rales / Rhonchi (Pulmonary Edema) - ADULT ONLY



\* Reference 7.02 I. CPAP

Consider use of ETCO<sub>2</sub> Nasal Cannula for evaluation of patient.

A. Use a nasal cannula at a flow rate of 4-6 liters per minute for supplemental oxygen for those patients who are in mild distress or have a history of severe COPD. If the respiratory distress does not resolve with Oxygen by nasal cannula, change to a non-rebreather oxygen mask.

B. Patients with difficulty breathing must be examined properly. Auscultation of breath sounds begins at the posterior bases and continues in six steps towards the apices.

C. All patients (male or female) who receive nitroglycerin must be questioned about taking Sildenafil Citrate (Viagra®) or other similar medications (i.e. Levitra® or Cialis®). Any patient that has taken these medications within the last 24 hours should not receive any form of nitroglycerin as irreversible hypotension may occur. It is imperative that the patient be questioned (in a confidential manner) about using these medications. The fact that the patient was questioned as well as their answer must be recorded in the patient care record. Contact on-line physician for further orders in this case.

D. In cases of suspected pneumonia (i.e. gradual onset, fever, productive cough), do not give NTG.

E. If severe respiratory distress, contact on-line medical control ASAP!