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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
 PRACTICAL SKILL
 CONTINUOUS POSITIVE
 AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP)**

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Purpose: To provide continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ventilation support adjunct in patients with moderate to severe respiratory distress		Indications: Moderate to severe respiratory distress in spontaneously breathing patients	
Advantages: Adjunct to respiratory distress therapy to be used in conjunction with oxygen and other respiratory treatment medications and therapies; if used early, may reduce the need for intubation and improve clinical comfort and outcome; light weight and oxygen sufficient; easily transferrable between portal, ambulance wall and ER wall oxygen sources	Disadvantages: Can be difficult to initiate and maintain seal; will require therapeutic relationship between provider and patient to establish trust with placing mask over face; competes with medication administration; oxygen use	Complications: Gastric insufflation; aspiration risk	Contraindications: Respiratory arrest/agonal respirations; unconscious; active vomiting; systolic blood pressure less than 100; pneumothorax; facial anomalies; facial trauma; laryngeal trauma; GI bleed

