

TREATMENT PROTOCOL**DIFFICULT BREATHING OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH**

1. Symptoms/Presentation

- Labored/rapid breathing
- Audible breathing, noisy breathing
- Distressed, anxious expression, neck extended forward, veins in neck distended.
- Gasping
- Marked cyanosis (fingers, nails, lips turn slightly bluish, grayish or purple)

2. Make emergency assessment:

- AIRWAY - Does he/she have an open airway?
- BREATHING - Is he/she breathing?
- CIRCULATION - Does he/she have a pulse?

3. If any of the above are absent:

- Call 911 for EMTs
- If respiration absent, start artificial respiration
- If both respiration and pulse absent, start CPR

4. If assessment shows airway, breathing and circulation are unrestricted:

- Have inmate sit up, or elevate head with blankets.
- Obtain medical history of inmate:
 - Does the inmate have asthma, emphysema or bronchitis?
 - Has this ever happened before?
 - If yes, what made it better?
- If breathing returns to normal within a few minutes, then refer the information to the Facility Nurse.
- If breathing does not return to normal, contact the Facility Nurse, Facility Provider or Emergency Room Physician after hours.