

STANDING ORDER SHEET

Emergency Department/Urgent Care

**STANDING ORDERS FOR NURSE INITIATED
CROUP TREATMENT CARE PATHWAY**

PURPOSE: To initiate early treatment of croup in children presenting with mild to moderate symptoms prior to physician assessment.

Step 1: Review Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusions: All criteria required:

- Age between 6 months and 5 years old
- Non-toxic appearance (e.g. alert, interactive, and well-perfused)
- Barky cough (seal-like) on presentation or by caregiver description
- Westley Croup Score of 0-5

Exclusions – Patients are excluded from the standing medication order if they have/are:

- Westley Croup Score of 6 or greater
- Received any oral or parenteral steroid in the last 7 days
- Drooling
- History of stridor for greater than 3 days
- Toxic appearance (pallor or cyanosis, lethargy or inconsolable irritability, pronounced tachypnea, prolonged capillary refill time (greater than 2 seconds), O₂ saturations less than 92%)
- Severe respiratory distress (marked chest wall retractions) or impending respiratory failure
- Suspected foreign body ingestion or aspiration
- Known airway abnormality
- Immunocompromised

Step 2: Score the patient using the Westley Croup Scoring Tool:

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Chest Wall Retractions	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe		
Stridor	None	With agitation	At rest			
Cyanosis	None				With agitation	At rest
Level of Consciousness	Normal					Disoriented
Air Entry	Normal	Decreased	Markedly decreased			

Westley Croup Score: _____ /17

Score: 0 – 2 Mild, 3-5 - Moderate, 6 or greater - Severe

**The Westley Croup Score: Classification of croup severity (Westley, et. Al., 1978)*

Step 3: Nurse Initiated Croup Treatment Care Pathway: For Westley Croup Score of 0 - 5

Give a dose of oral dexamethasone using weight-based dosing. Continue with Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) or ED/UC standards of care and assessment frequency. Patients require assessment by ED/UC prescriber.

Weight _____ kg	Medication	Dose	Date	Time																																																	
	dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg/dose PO x 1; maximum 10 mg/dose	mg	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td><td>D</td><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td> </td> </tr> </table>											D	D	M	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y		<table border="1"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="10">24 HOUR</td> </tr> </table>																					24 HOUR								
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Teaching and Administration of Medication

- Reviewed exclusions, contraindications and alerts
- Explained medication and side effects with patient and/or caregiver
- Clinical circumstances sheet reviewed for allergies
- Explained the need to wait to receive medical assessment

Nurse Signature _____ Nurse Printed Name and Designation _____ Date/Time _____