



QR code for mobile access

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age 6 months to 6 years

Exclusion Criteria:

- Chronic intermittent stridor (e.g., laryngomalacia)

Special considerations for deviations from this clinical pathway:

- Known upper airway abnormality/tracheostomy
- Hypotonia or neuromuscular disorder
- Complex medical co-morbidities (oncologic)
- History of chronic steroid use

Signs of impending respiratory failure:

- Poor respiratory effort
- Severe retractions
- Listless or decreased LOC
- Cyanosis/Hypoxemia

NOT Routinely Recommended:

- X-Ray
- Viral testing
- Blood tests

Discharge Criteria:

- >2 hours since last RE
- No stridor at rest or other signs of increased work of breathing
- Tolerating PO intake
- Family has access to medical care

Admission criteria:

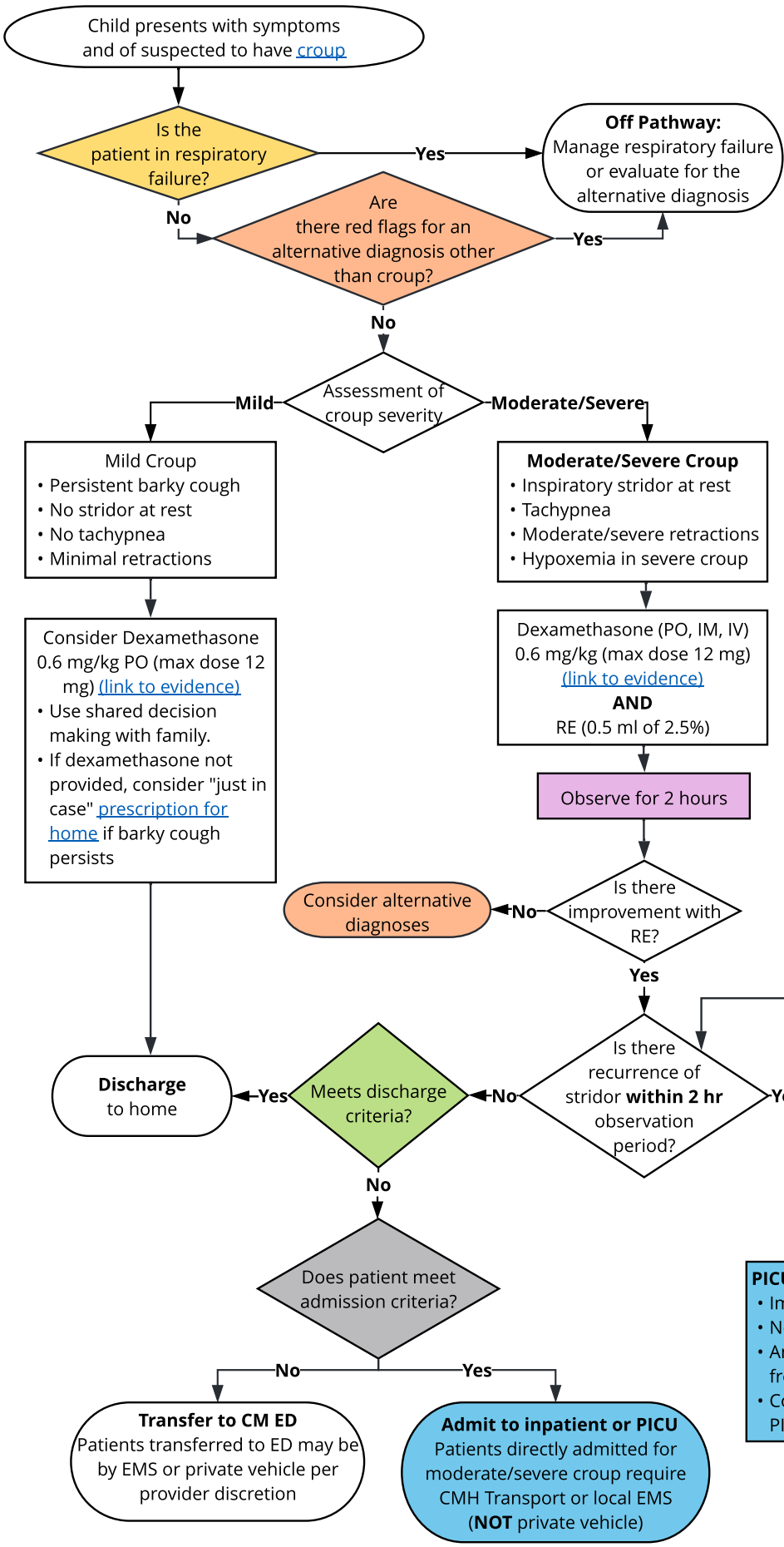
- 3 or more doses of RE needed
- Persistent respiratory distress
- Severe croup with no improvement after RE treatment
- Patient not otherwise meeting discharge criteria

Evidence suggests pts requiring < 3 doses of RE are less likely to require additional interventions once admitted than those requiring 3 or more doses of RE

**For additional information, [link to evidence](#)*

Abbreviations:

LOC = Level of Consciousness
PICU = Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
RE = Racemic Epinephrine



Children with the following may have an alternative diagnosis:

- Biphasic or expiratory stridor
- Ill or toxic appearance
- Lack of response to RE
- Un- or undervaccinated
- Recurrent visit for stridor within 24 hours

Alternative Diagnoses:

- [Foreign Body Aspiration Clinical Pathway](#)
- [Anaphylaxis Clinical Pathway](#)
- [Mediastinal Chest Mass Clinical Pathway](#)
- Airway anomaly
- Bacterial tracheitis
- Epiglottitis
- Retro-pharyngeal abscess

If patient is stable and not able to be observed for 2 hours after racemic epinephrine, (family preference, site closing, high volumes, etc) use shared decision making with family

PICU admission criteria:

- Impending respiratory failure
- Need for Heliox
- Anticipated need for RE more frequently than q1hr
- Confirm potential transfer with PICU intensivist

[Croup inpatient algorithm](#)