

AECOPD Emergency Card

Acute COPD exacerbation essentials

Emergency & Resuscitation

PHYSICIAN REFERENCE

Initial

- Controlled oxygen with target commonly 88-92% in patients at risk of hypercapnic respiratory failure, pending ABG.
- Short-acting bronchodilators and systemic corticosteroid; antibiotics when bacterial features/ventilation indication fit.

NIV

- Consider NIV for acute hypercapnic respiratory acidosis when no contraindication and with close monitoring.

Escalate

- Worsening acidosis, inability to protect airway, severe instability, or NIV failure -> ICU/intubation assessment.

Clinical safety note

Use this as a memory aid, not a prescription. Verify current guidelines, local protocols, contraindications, renal/hepatic dosing, pregnancy status, interactions and patient-specific factors before treatment.