



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Patient Care Guidelines

Pneumonia

History	<u>Inclusion Criteria:</u> - Productive cough - Fever, chills - Shortness of breath - Pleuritic chest pain - Congestion - Current medications and last doses (especially if already on antibiotics) - Medical history (including smoking and COPD)
Assessment	- ABC's - Vital signs to include temperature - Respiratory work, breath sounds
Treatment	Start Pneumonia Pathway – check with attending MD for antibiotic orders - ABC's - Pulse oximeter; follow Oxygen protocol - IV, if productive cough and febrile and draw labs - Intake & Output - Give sputum cup - RT and meds available (updraft) as ordered by M.D. - Tylenol Gr X (adult) for temp > 101 F - Sepsis – CBC w/ Diff, C8, PT, PTT, UA, Blood Cultures x 2 - ABG's if: SpO2 is less than 92%, or respiratory rate is less than 8 or greater than 36, or Smoking or COPD history - Chest X-ray – when ordering add comment - POSSIBLE PNEUMONIA
Lab/X-Ray	
Special	<u>Antibiotics should be administered as soon as possible, definitely within the first 4 hours of arrival to the ED.</u> Readings from radiology on films for “possible pneumonia” will be given to the Charge Nurse.

Pneumonia

3/06, 3/07, 3/08

Source: Saint Louis (MO) University Hospital.