Box 1

Bronchodilator treatment flowchart for acute asthma[19]

Trial of salbutamol

- Via spacer and face mask (one puff of salbutamol at a time, inhaled separately using tidal breathing; according to response, another puff every 60 seconds up to a maximum of 10 puffs) **OR**
- Via nebuliser salbutamol 2.5-5 mg (depending on age), preferably oxygen-driven
- If responding: Repeat salbutamol every 1-4 hours
- If poor response: Add 0.25 mg nebulised ipratropium bromide to each salbutamol nebuliser every 20-30 minutes