EMT/Emergency Room Information

**SHORTNESS OF BREATH:**

If I display shortness of breath or low SpO₂, do not give me oxygen unless I have another respiratory condition that requires it. I may need noninvasive positive pressure ventilation to expel CO₂.

**OXYGEN MAY NOT HELP AND MAY MASK RESPIRATORY FAILURE:**

My lungs are healthy, but my muscles including diaphragm are weak. IF I am using a BPAP at home, the settings should be the same as those. IF NOT, a BPAP with a pressure of 12/6, backup rate of 10 with titration as needed may help.

**LAYING ME ON MY BACK:**

May be difficult for me because of the possibility of CO₂ retention due to diaphragmatic weakness and aspiration due to poor ability to protect my airway. I may be able if using a BPAP or non-invasive mechanical ventilation.

**AVOID:**

Paralytic or general anesthetics, narcotics or muscle relaxants unless absolutely necessary. If used, the ability to rapidly assist ventilation non-invasively or invasively should be available.

*If I have a gastrostomy tube, please use that for administration of “oral” medications.*

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*I may slur my words or not be able to speak at all, but I UNDERSTAND what you are saying.*

*Speak to me in a normal voice and ALLOW ME TIME to communicate.*

*My caregiver(s) and I are extremely knowledgeable about my condition, treatment needs and equipment. Please work with us.*