

Shortness of breath

Fully undress, perform observations, apply gown and wristband
Check Allergies and Anticoagulant Medications

ASSESSMENT

- Perform full A-E assessment (including BM)
- Perform ECG and get it reviewed by Dr/ANP

*****Red Flags*****

- EWS ≥ 4
- Unable to complete full sentence
- Poor respiratory effort/exhaustion
- RR > 22/min and O₂ sats < 95%
- GCS < 15
- Sweaty, grey, looks unwell
- Abnormal ECG
- Trauma
- Previous DVT/PE
- Sepsis – follow IAT

No → EWS >3 and mobilising

Yes – consider cat 2 → IAU Dr/ANP review

INVESTIGATIONS

- Cannulate and take VBG if any red flag or EWS ≥ 3
- FBC, UE (INR if warfarinised, Coag if NOAC), (LFT if temp > 38.1⁰C)
- D-dimer only if directed by reviewing Dr/ANP
- Peak flow if asthmatic
- Administer prescribed medications / give PGD

PLAN

- Apply nursing orders e.g. XR
- Explain process to patient/relatives
- Complete accountability handover to Majors Staff and NIC

