Approach to the Hypoxic Patient

**Hypoxic patient**
- Hypoxia SpO2:
  - < 92% non-COPD
  - < 88% advanced COPD

**Start NP O2 (up to 6 L/min) and maximal medical management**

**Patient still hypoxic**

**Is a ventilator available?**

- **YES**
  - **Protected Intubation**
    - (see Protected Intubation protocol)

- **NO**
  - **DO NOT INTUBATE**
    - Fails checklist (Intubation is not appropriate)

**Accepted for rapid transfer to tertiary care?**

- **YES**
  - Patient stabilized (SpO2 92-96%)
    - Admit to appropriate ward
    - Monitor for deterioration (eg worsening SpO2, increasing O2 requirements)

- **NO**
  - Patient meets criteria to require intubation but no ventilator is available (i.e. temporizing is needed)

**Negative pressure room**
- Airborne PPE & precautions

**Consider strategies to increase O2 delivery beyond 6L/min, e.g.**
- NRB with viral filter up to 15 L/min
- High-flow nasal cannula under viral filter + tightly fitted CPAP/ BiPAP mask (*not* hooked up to machine) or anesthesia mask

**Palliative / Comfort-focused Management**