SYMPTOMS AND LABS
- Repeated hospital admissions for pulmonary infections or a single admission to the intensive care unit
- Change in feeding tolerance
- Loss of mobility
- Infants with weakness and feeding difficulties
- Infants with thoracic dystrophy
- Weakness with reliance on oxygen

SUGGESTED PREVISIT WORKUP
- Consult pulmonary medicine
- Urgent consults are to expedite assessment of underlying anatomic or medical conditions that could compromise airway patency
- The intention is to prevent a life threatening complication and initiate therapies to reduce morbidity

SUGGESTED WORKUP
- Swallow study with speech therapy
- Chest x-ray to assess scoliosis
- Follow up x-ray for pneumonias to ensure that consolidations are secondary to infection and not anatomic changes related to neuromuscular scoliosis
- Speech and swallow center referral
- Pulmonary referral is indicated
- Consider GI referral

CLINICAL PEARLS
- Early pulmonary intervention in neuromuscular respiratory failure has been demonstrated to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life.
- Children with neuromuscular disease who snore and stop snoring may be developing worsening airway obstruction.