
Nitroglycerin

Protocols:

1. Chest Pain/Acute Coronary Syndrome
2. Nitroglycerin Drip Supplement (Optional)
3. Pulmonary Edema/CHF

Indications:

1. Chest, arm, or neck pain thought to be caused by cardiac ischemia
2. Pulmonary edema
3. Nitroglycerin drip may be used as a supplement to both above indications when sublingual nitroglycerin has not relieved symptoms and the MCA has both adopted the supplement and trained the providers. The provider must use vented IV tubing and an infusion pump.

Contraindications:

1. Use of erectile dysfunction medications within the previous 48 hours

Dosing:

1. MFR and EMT Basic may assist patients with their own sublingual nitroglycerin
2. Sublingual nitroglycerin
 - a. 0.4 mg sublingual if BP is above 100 mmHg
 - b. May repeat at 3 to 5 minute intervals if pain persists and BP sustains
 - c. May be administered prior to IV start if BP is above 120 mmHg
3. Nitroglycerin IV drip (MCA selection)
 - a. Begin drip at 10 mcg/min
 - b. Increase by 10 mcg/min at 5 minute intervals, titrating to pain and BP
 - c. Maximum dose is 200 mcg/min

Expected Effects:

1. Decreased blood pressure
2. Relief of chest pain

Side Effects:

1. Headache
2. Flushing
3. Hypotension