



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT PROCEDURE

BLS PROVIDER ASSISTANCE WITH NITROGLYCERINE  
ADMINISTRATION

#: B-015  
Page: 1 of 1  
Orig. Date: 09/09  
Revised: 10/01/2017

INDICATIONS:

- Patient with chest pain who has prescribed Nitroglycerine and who is awake and alert.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Systolic Blood pressure below 90 mm Hg
- Patient has already taken three (3) doses of Nitroglycerine for this chest pain episode
- Use of Viagra®, Cialis®, or Levitra® within the past 24 hours
- Prescribed Nitroglycerine has expired

EQUIPMENT:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) - clean gloves
- Blood pressure cuff and stethoscope

PROCEDURE:

- Assure that ALS responders are en-route
- Perform an assessment on the patient to include medical history, medications, and allergies
- If patient is having active chest pain or discomfort, ask if they have taken any of their prescribed Nitroglycerine
- If the patient has taken none or less than three (3) Nitroglycerine within the past 30 minutes, and blood pressure is 90 systolic or greater, assist with administration of up to three (3) total doses of Nitroglycerine (one dose after checking blood pressure at 5 minute intervals) while awaiting arrival of ALS responder(s):

*Nitroglycerine Tablets/Powder* – Assist the patient by placing one tablet or contents of powder packet under their tongue. Advise the patient not to swallow the tablet or powder.

*Nitroglycerine Spray* – Do not shake the medication container prior to administration. Advise the patient not to inhale. Direct medication spray under the tongue or to side of inner mouth.

- Update vital signs five (5) minutes after Nitroglycerine administration and document

DOCUMENTATION:

- Assessment including initial and updated vital signs
- Description of the need to assist the patient with Nitroglycerine
- Time of Nitroglycerine assisted administration

NOTES:

- Give detailed report to ALS personnel when they arrive, including time(s) and dose(s) of Nitroglycerine taken by patient
- If patient becomes hypotensive prior to arrival of ALS personnel place patient supine and elevate legs as tolerated

Approved:

Review Dates: 09/09, 05/17  
Final Date of Implementation: 10/01/2017  
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