**Nitroglycerin Administration**

**Clinical Indications**

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| * Chest pain of possible cardiac origin. Symptoms may include:   1. Retrosternal chest heaviness, pressure or pain 2. Radiation of pain to neck, arms or jaw  3. Associated SOB, nausea/vomiting or sweating 4. Possibly worsened by exertion  5. Patient over 30 years old 6. Patient with history of recent cocaine use  **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**   * EMT/AEMT’s may perform this function with specific training. * EMT’s may administer the patient’s Nitroglycerin only if already prescribed to the patient. * AEMT’s may carry and administer Nitroglycerin in the field for patients who present with chest pain of suspected cardiac origin only if already prescribed to the patient. |

**PROCEDURE GUIDELINES**

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| **R-EMR** | **E – EMT** | **A-AEMT** | **P-PARAMEDIC** | **\*\*M-Medical Control \*\*** |

**\*\*\*Higher level providers are responsible for lower level treatments\*\*\***

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| * Check to see if the patient has already taken any doses of Nitroglycerin. * Determine if the patient has already met the maximum prescribed dose prior to your arrival. * If the maximum dose of Nitroglycerin has already been taken or dosage is unknown, discourage the patient from taking any more. Contact On-Line Medical Control Physician for directions. * Inspect the prescribed Nitroglycerin and document:   + - **Right (Correct) Patient-** Product packaging may not have patient-specific label attached.     - **Right Medication and Form**- Only Nitroglycerin sublingual tablets or spray allowed, check expiration date.     - **Right Dose-** One tablet or one spray under tongue. * If blood pressure is greater than 100 systolic, remove oxygen mask and instruct patient (or assist patient) to place one pill, or spray one dose, under tongue. Remember: wear gloves! * Ask the patient to keep mouth closed without swallowing until medication is dissolved and absorbed. * Record time of administration, dose administered and patient response. (Effect on pain relief and any side effects such as headache, hypotension or pulse rate changes.) * Dose may be repeated in 3-5 minutes if no relief of symptoms occurs and BP remains above 100 systolic, up to a maximum of 3 doses. Contact On-Line Medical Control Physician for permission to administer additional doses. * Transport promptly and continue to reassess patient. | **E** |
| * Administer nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL (spray) every three minutes, up to three doses if chest pain persists and BP is > 100 mmHg systolic. | **A** |
| * Administer nitroglycerin paste 0.5-2” transdermal (TD).3 | **P** |

3AEMT providers may perform these procedures if credentialed with the appropriate OM.

**Nitroglycerin should not be given within 24 hours of taking Viagra (sildenafil) or Levitra (vardenafil) or within 48 hours of taking Cialis (tadalafil).**