

Medical Emergencies
CARDIOVASCULAR EMERGENCIES – Revised 8/2014

- I. Scene Size-Up & Initial Patient Assessment
 - II. Verify PT is responsive- If not responsive, start CPR
 - III. Focused History & Physical Exam
 - A. Onset/Provocation/Quality/Radiation/Severity/Time
 - B. Signs & Symptoms
 1. Chest pain, Difficulty breathing, Skin changes, Nausea/vomiting
 2. Anxiety/irritability (feeling of impending doom)
 3. Circulatory (irregular pulse or BP, shock, no pulse)
 - III. Management
 - A. Patient responsive, complaining of chest pain/pressure/SOB/sweating
 1. Provide supplemental oxygen and/or ventilation assistance as necessary
 2. Patient's own physician prescribed Nitroglycerin available; assist patient with self administration of Nitroglycerin.
 - B. Contraindications for Nitroglycerin
 1. Use of medication for erectile dysfunction medication Viagra (sildenafil) or other (i.e. Cialis) within 36 hours. Contact medical control BEFORE administering if any question regarding previous use of ED drugs by patient
 2. Baseline systolic BP is below 100 mm/Hg
 3. Head injury suspected
 4. Patient is infant or child
 5. Three doses have already been taken by the patient
 - C. Medication Form
 1. Tablet, sublingual spray
 - D. Dosage
 1. One tablet or one spray under the tongue. May repeat every five (5) minutes, up to 3 times if no relief.
 2. Check patient's blood pressure prior to each repeated dose
 3. If patient's own physician prescribed Nitroglycerin not available or appropriate;
 - a) Continue Oxygen
 - b) Allow patient to achieve safe position of comfort
 4. Aspirin
 - a) Be sure that the patient is alert and responsive
 - b) Have the patient chew four baby aspirin (324mg).
 - c) Record your actions, including the dosage and the time of administration.
- Contraindications for use of aspirin**
- 1) Patient is allergic to aspirin or ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®).
 - 2) If they have just taken aspirin for this event, do not administer aspirin.
- B. Patient unresponsive
 1. Check respirations and pulse
 2. Begin CPR if not provided during Initial Patient Assessment (follow current national standards). If Do Not Resuscitate, order, follow protocols on Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)
 3. Provide supplemental oxygen and/or ventilator assistance as necessary, if not done during Initial Patient Assessment.
 4. Attach Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).
 5. Follow general defibrillation protocol
- IV. Ongoing Assessment