

Nitroglycerin

Effective: 03/01/2021

Supersedes:
N/A

Approved Provider: EMT (admin SL routes only) | AEMT | Paramedic

Referenced Protocols: [Chest Pain](#) | [CHF](#) | [CVA / TIA](#)

DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION

ADULT

- 0.4mg SL repeat q 3-5 min (Systolic BP above 100mm Hg) (**MAX DOSE: 3 sprays**)
- Paste 0.5-1.0 inch. Transdermal

PEDIATRIC (Refer to Handtevy)

- Not indicated

Pharmacology and Actions:

- Dilate smooth muscle within arteries and veins Consequently, this decreases the workload of the heart, increases blood supply to cardiac tissue and lowers blood pressure

Indications:

- Used to treat chest pain of cardiac origin
- Used to treat congestive heart failure with pulmonary edema
- Hypertensive patient SBP >180mmHg with potential CVA (See [CVA Protocol](#))

Contraindications:

- Long acting nitrates such as erectile dysfunction medications:
 - Viagra (Sildenafil) within 24 hours
 - Cialis or other erectile agent within 48 hours
- Hypotension <100

Precautions:

- Because of nitroglycerin's tendency to lower blood pressure, it should be given with caution. Vital signs continuously monitored
- ACS with inferior strain or injury pattern (inferior STEMI)

Administration:

- Acceptable routes of administration include SL spray or cutaneous 2% ointment

Side Effects:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Light-headed
- Nausea