

| Shortness of Breath – Pulmonary Edema | |
|--|--|
| BLS Procedures | |
| Administer oxygen as indicated | |
| Initiate CPAP for moderate to severe distress | |
| ALS Prior to Base Hospital Contact | |
| Nitroglycerin <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SL or lingual spray – 0.4 mg q 1 min x 3<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Repeat 0.4 mg q 2 min○ No max dosage○ Hold for SBP < 100 mmHg | |
| If not already performed by BLS personnel, Initiate CPAP for moderate to severe distress | |
| Perform 12-lead ECG (Per VCEMS Policy 726) | |
| IV/IO access | |
| If wheezes are present and suspect COPD/Asthma, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Albuterol<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nebulizer – 5 mg/6 mL | |
| Communication Failure Protocol | |
| If patient becomes or presents with hypotension <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Slow IV/IOP – 0.1 mg (1 mL) increments over 1-2 min○ Repeat q 3-5 min<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Max 0.3 mg (3 mL) | |
| Base Hospital Orders only | |
| Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures | |
| Additional Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nitroglycerin is contraindicated when phosphodiesterase inhibitor medications [Sildenafil (Viagra and Revatio), Vardenafil (Levitra), and Tadalafil (Cialis)] have been recently used (Viagra or Levitra within 24 hours; Cialis within 48 hours). These medications are most commonly used to treat erectile dysfunction or pulmonary hypertension. In this situation, NTG may only be given by ED Physician order. | |

Effective Date: June 1, 2018
Next Review Date: April 30, 2020

Date Revised: April 12, 2018
Last Reviewed: April 12, 2018



EMS Medical Director