

Subject: Treatment – ALS LOCAL OPTIONAL SCOPE
Nitroglycerin Drip during Interfacility Transport

-
- I. Authority:
 - A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.
 - B. North Coast EMS Policies and Procedures
 - II. Purpose:
 - A. To provide a mechanism for approved North Coast EMS Agency accredited Paramedics to continue a Nitroglycerin drip during interfacility transfers.
 - III. Policy:
 - A. Only North Coast EMS accredited Paramedics who have successfully completed training program(s) approved by the North Coast EMS on nitroglycerin drips will be permitted to monitor them during interfacility transports.
 - B. Only ALS ambulance providers approved by the North Coast EMS will be permitted to provide the service of monitoring nitroglycerin drips during interfacility transports.
 - IV. Procedure
 - A. PRIOR TO TRANSPORT:
 - 1. Paramedics can transport patients on nitroglycerin drips within the following parameters:
 - a. Patient has a pre-existing nitroglycerin drip in a peripheral or central IV line. Infusion was initiated by the sending facility.
 - b. Rate of administration is titrated to patient pain relief response, usual starting dose of 10mcg/minute and increasing in 5 mcg increments every 3-5 minutes until response is noted.
 - c. Patient does not have more than two (2) medicated infusions running, exclusive of potassium chloride (KCl).
 - d. Patient is hemodynamically stable at time of transport.
 - e. The nitroglycerin drip should be started at the sending facility 15 minutes prior to departure.
 - f. The nitroglycerin drip shall be administered via infusion pump. It shall never be administered by the paramedic via IV push or uncontrolled gravity sets.
 - B. DURING TRANSPORT:
 - 1. Patient will be monitored in transport for any signs of hypotension utilizing careful observation, a 12 Lead cardiac monitor, blood pressures,

Subject: Treatment – ALS LOCAL OPTIONAL SCOPE
Nitroglycerin Drip during Interfacility Transport

and pulse oximetry. Vital signs shall be documented at a minimum of every 10 -15 minutes.

2. Should hypotension develop decrease drip rate in 5mcg increments every 3-5 minutes until blood pressure stabilizes.
3. If critical hypotension occurs and fails to respond to rate reduction, stop the nitroglycerin drip and notify the receiving facility as soon as possible.
4. If medication administration is interrupted (infiltration, accidental disconnection, etc.), the paramedic may restart the line and continue the infusion as delineated in the transfer orders.
5. In cases of IV pump malfunction that cannot be corrected, note the time the medication was discontinued.
6. No other medication or infusion shall be given through the same line.

C. Quality Assurance:

1. Paramedic transport agencies approved to transport patients with nitroglycerin drips are required to provide a report to NCEMS annually to include the following parameters:
 - a. Number of uses and patient presentations.
 - b. Names of transferring facilities.
 - c. Any sentinel events.
 - d. Patient condition at transfer of care.