

Subject: Treatment –LOCAL OPTIONAL SCOPE Paramedic
Nitroglycerin Drip infusion during Interfacility Transport (IFT)

Purpose	To provide a mechanism for approved North Coast EMS Agency accredited Paramedics to continue a Nitroglycerin drip during interfacility transfers.
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.
Procedure Prior to Transport	Paramedics can transport patients on nitroglycerin drips within the following parameters: A. Patients have 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. Patients do not have more than two (2) medicated infusions running, exclusive of potassium chloride (KCl). D. Patients are 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.
Procedure During Transport	A. Patients will be monitored in transport for any signs of hypotension utilizing careful observation, cardiac monitor and/serial 12 leads, blood pressure, and pulse oximetry. Vital signs shall be documented at a minimum of every 10 -15 minutes. B. Should hypotension develop decrease drip rate in 5mcg increments every 3-5 minutes until blood pressure stabilizes. C. If critical hypotension occurs and fails to respond to rate reduction, stop the nitroglycerin drip and notify the receiving facility as soon as possible. D. 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.

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	E. In cases of IV pump malfunction that cannot be corrected, note the time the medication was discontinued. SL nitroglycerin can be utilized per protocol. F. No other medication or infusion shall be given through the same line.
Quality Assurance	Paramedic transport agencies approved to transport patients with heparin infusions are required to provide a report to NCEMS quarterly 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.