

Kittitas County Prehospital Care Protocols

Subject: ASPIRIN (Off-line Medical Direction) - EMT

INDICATIONS FOR USE IN AN ACUTE CORONARY EVENT:

- 1) Patient exhibits any of the following signs or symptoms:
 - a) Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
 - b) Pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms.
 - c) Chest discomfort with light headedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

-OR-

- 2) Patient exhibits any **two** of the following signs or symptoms, and you think it is of cardiac origin:
 - a) Atypical chest pain, stomach or abdominal pain. This may include discomfort that can be localized to a point, that is “sharp” in nature, that is reproducible by palpation, or that is in the “wrong” location (such as the upper abdomen).
 - b) Unexplained nausea (without vomiting) or lightheadedness (not vertigo) without chest pain.
 - c) Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing (**with or** without chest pain).
 - d) Unexplained anxiety, weakness or fatigue.
 - e) Palpitations, cold sweat or paleness.

CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR USE:

- 1) Patient is allergic to aspirin or ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®).
- 2) If the patient has just taken **the recommended dose** of aspirin for this event, do not administer aspirin.
- 3) Radial pulses are not present in both arms **or systolic BP varies by at least 20 mm/Hg**.
- 4) **Head injury suspected (includes stroke) – Check w/ medical control if uncertain**

PROCEDURE:

- 1) ALS/ILS upgrade and evaluation required unless ALS/ILS is unavailable.
- 2) Be sure that the patient is alert and responsive.
- 3) If the patient has his/her own nitroglycerin and meets the criteria for administration, do not delay assisting in the administration per protocol.
- 4) Check radial pulses in both arms. If both are present **and systolic BP is within < 20 mm/Hg between arms**, have the patient chew four 81 mg aspirin or equivalent (324 mg). **“Chewable” aspirin are recommended.**
- 5) Record all treatment, including the dosage and the time of administration.

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Medical Program Director: Jackson S. Horsley, MD

Recent changes in **bold**.