

Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

SUBJECT: NITROGLYCERIN

ACTION: Dilates coronary and systemic arteries.

INDICATIONS:

Angina pectoris, chest pain associated with AMI, CHF with suspected pulmonary edema. Ointment is ideally used for those patients with an extended transport time to definitive care.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Children under 12
- Hypotension (Baseline systolic BP is below 100 mm/Hg)
- The patient (male or female) has taken tadalafil drugs / vasodilators (Cialis, Levitra, Staxyn, or Viagra are common brands) within the last 48 hours. Tadalafil is an oral drug that is used for treating impotence (ED) and benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH, enlarged prostate).
- Head injury suspected (including stroke)

PRECAUTIONS:

- Constantly monitor blood pressure
- Watch for syncopal episode
- Drug must be protected from light, expires quickly once container is opened
- Ensure gloves are worn whenever handling Nitroglycerin to prevent accidental exposure
- Ointment:
 - In the event that the patient requires cardioversion or pacing, avoid placing pads near Nitroglycerin ointment. It may be necessary to remove ointment and wipe off skin prior to placing pads for cardioversion or pacing.
 - Notify receiving hospital of Nitroglycerin ointment location on the patient.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Headache, dizziness, hypotension, change in pulse

If hypotension ensues, remove Nitroglycerine Ointment, consider bolus of 250 mL Normal Saline prn.

DOSAGE:

Tablets: 1 tablet repeated q 3-5 minutes x 3 (0.4 mg tablets or unit dose spray).

Ointment: 1 inch of 2% ointment topically for transdermal absorption

ROUTE:

Tablets or Spray: Sublingual

Ointment: Transdermal

PEDIATRIC DOSE: Not indicated

NOTE: Another brand of tadalafil is Adcirca, which is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Some types of vasodilators may be injectable. Any type of vasodilator should be considered contraindicated unless directed by online medical control.