

Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

SUBJECT: OXYMETAZOLINE HYDROCHLORIDE (AFRIN®)

ACTION:

- Long acting topical vasoconstrictor that reduces mucosal edema
- May help slow intranasal bleeding

INDICATIONS:

- As an adjunct to direct pressure to help control epistaxis
- To facilitate placement of a nasotracheal tube and reduce the likelihood of bleeding associated with this technique

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to oxymetazoline hydrochloride

PRECAUTIONS:

- Unlikely to be a benefit in bleeding associated with severe nasal trauma.
- Normal pupillary reflex may be affected if this preparation gets in the eyes.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Possible adverse side effects in patients with the following:

- Heart Disease
- Hypertension
- Thyroid disease
- Diabetes
- Prostatic hypertrophy
- Pregnancy
- Nursing mothers

DOSAGE:

- Adult and Children (6 years and older) - 2 or 3 sprays in each bleeding nostril.
DO NOT exceed 2 doses in any 24-hour period.

ROUTE:

- Nasal