

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT - PRACTICAL SKILL TEACHING SHEET

**ADMINISTRATION OF NITROGLYCERIN**

SCENE SIZE-UP

Assess: Need for body substance isolation, Scene safety, Trauma(MOI) or Medical(NOI) nature, and Number of Patients

ASSESSMENT

Perform initial assessment and focused or detailed assessment as indicated.  
Obtain history of present illness: O-P-Q-R-S-T  
Obtain S-A-M-P-L-E history  
Obtain base line vital signs

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE - NITROGLYCERIN ADMINISTRATION

Actions:

- Relaxes blood vessels
- Decreases workload of heart

Side Effects:

- Hypotension
- Headache
- Pulse rate changes

Indications: (must meet the following three criteria)

- Emergency medical care for the treatment of the patient exhibiting signs and symptoms of chest pain.
- Medication is prescribed for this patient by a physician.
- Medical direction authorizes use for this patient.

Contraindications:

- Hypotension or blood pressure below 100 mmHg systolic
- Head injury
- Infants and children
- Patient has already met maximum prescribed dose prior to EMT-Basic arrival

Dosage:

- One dose, repeat in 3-5 minutes if no relief, BP >100, and authorized by medical direction up to a maximum of three doses.

**Administration:**

Obtain order from medical direction either on-line or off-line (**Per local protocol**).

Perform focused assessment for cardiac patient and record findings.

Assess blood pressure - B/P must be above 100 mmHg systolic to administer medication.

**(OVER)**

Assure right medication, right patient, right route, patient alert.

Check expiration date of nitroglycerin.

Question patient on last dose administration, effects, and assures understanding of route of administration.

Ask patient to lift tongue and place tablet or spray dose under tongue (while wearing gloves) or have patient place tablet or spray under tongue.

Have patient keep mouth closed with tablet under tongue (without swallowing) until dissolved and absorbed.

Recheck blood pressure within 2 minutes.

Record activity and time.

Perform reassessment:

- Monitor blood pressure
- Ask patient about effect on pain relief
- Seek medical direction before re-administering
- Record reassessments