CHEST PAIN / ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME

BASIC EMT

1. Oxygen if oxygen saturation <= 93 or evidence of respiratory distress
2. Obtain 12-lead EKG (if available) and transmit as soon as possible for chest / arm / neck / epigastric pain, shortness of breath, diaphoresis, syncope, or dizziness thought to be of possible cardiac etiology
3. **Aspirin** four 81 mg orally (baby aspirin).
4. **Nitroglycerin**
   - ➢ May assist patient in taking **his/her own prescribed** nitroglycerin.
   - ➢ Hold if systolic blood pressure less than 100.
   - ➢ Give one tablet sublingual every 5 minutes up to 3 tablets.
   - ➢ DO NOT USE IF RECENT USE of erectile dysfunction medications. MAY RESULT IN INTRACTABLE HYPOTENSION if given within 24 – 48 hours.

ADVANCED EMT

5. **Nitroglycerin** (if cardiac etiology suspected)
   - ➢ 0.4 mg SL tabs or metered dose spray every 5 minutes x 3 as needed
   - ➢ Hold if systolic blood pressure less than 100.
   - ➢ DO NOT USE IF RECENT USE of erectile dysfunction medications. MAY RESULT IN INTRACTABLE HYPOTENSION if given within 24 – 48 hours.

PARAMEDIC

6. For continued moderate to severe pain consider pain management:

Pain Management:

Fentanyl (Sublimaze) **First choice for hemodynamic instability, extremes of age

Adult Patients

- ➢ 1 mcg/kg IV/IO/IM/IN slowly every 5 minutes (not to exceed 100 mcg per unit dose) a maximum total dose of 200 mcg

Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) **Appropriate when longer duration of effect desired

Adult Patients

- ➢ 0.5 – 1.0 mg IV/IO/IM every 10 min to max of 2mg

Geriatric Patients (greater than 65 years)

- ➢ 0.5mg IV/IM every 10 min to max of 1 mg

The patient will receive only one of the two drugs by standing order.

CHEST PAIN / ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME cont.

7. Consider **Nitro Paste** (if available) 1-inch paste placed on lateral aspect of arm or left upper chest.

If 12-lead EKG indicates ST segment myocardial infarction, the patient should be transported to the closest hospital capable of emergent percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). Please see local procedures and protocols.

CONTACT MEDICAL CONTROL