

## Shortness of Breath – Pulmonary Edema

### BLS Procedures

Administer oxygen as indicated

Initiate CPAP/BiPAP for moderate to severe distress

### ALS Standing Orders

#### Nitroglycerin

- SL or lingual spray – 0.4 mg q 1 min x 3
  - Repeat 0.4 mg q 2 min
  - No max dosage
  - Hold for SBP < 100 mmHg

Perform 12-lead ECG (Per VCEMS Policy 726)

IV/IO access

If wheezes are present and suspect COPD/Asthma, consider:

#### Albuterol

- Nebulizer – 5 mg/6 mL
  - Repeat as needed

If patient presents or becomes hypotensive:

#### Epinephrine 10 mcg/mL

- 1mL (10 mcg) q 2 minutes, slow IV/IO push
  - Titrate to SBP of greater than or equal to 90 mm/Hg

### Base Hospital Orders only

Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures

Additional Information:

- Refer to VCEMS Policy 735 for additional information on preparing push dose epinephrine solution.
- Nitroglycerin is contraindicated when phosphodiesterase inhibitor medications [Sildenafil (Viagra and Revatio), Vardenafil (Levitra), and Tadalafil (Cialis)] have been recently used (Viagra or Levitra within 24 hours; Cialis within 48 hours). These medications are most commonly used to treat erectile dysfunction or pulmonary hypertension. In this situation, NTG may only be given by ED Physician order.

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