



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES PROGRAM

Protocol No. R1  
Reviewed 4/2009

### Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: RESPIRATORY DISTRESS - ACUTE CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE

#### **I. BLS Treatment Protocol:**

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. Prepare for transport / transfer of care.

#### **II. ALS Treatment Protocol:**

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. NTG \* 0.4 mg sublingual every 2 minutes. Hold if hypotensive.
- C. Apply 1 inch nitro paste. Hold if hypotensive.
- D. Consider CPAP (Policy 5800)
- E. Transport.
- F. If symptomatic hypotension, consider positioning, 250ml fluid bolus.
- G. Contact Base Station.
- H. If persistent hypotension, Consider Dopamine 5-10 mcg/kg/min. Start at 5-10mcg/kg/min. Titrate for effect to a maximum of 20 mcg/kg/min. (See drug list for dosage chart).

#### **Notes:**

- Do **NOT** administer NTG if the patient has taken erectile dysfunction agent within the past 24 hours (i.e., Cialias, Levitra, Viagra, Revatio, Tadalafil, etc.).
- Refer to Policy 5800 for full details on CPAP