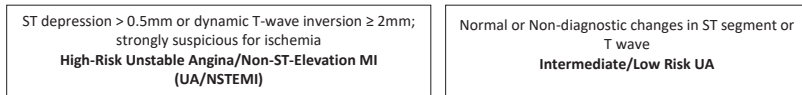


# 13. NSTEMI/Unstable Angina Algorithm

This clinical pathway is intended to supplement, rather than substitute for, professional judgment and may be changed depending upon a patient's individual needs. Failure to comply with this pathway does not represent a breach of the standard of care.



- Establish IV access and send blood samples for UEC, & hsTroponin T (**obtain hsTroponin T at least 4 hours after symptom onset, not before**)
- **Aspirin 300mg** to chew (if not given by EMS, not allergic, no active upper GI bleeding or retinal bleeding, not a haemophiliac)
- **Nitroglycerin sublingual spray 0.4mg SL** for pain relief **every 5mins** up to relief of discomfort or **MAX 3 doses** reached. **DO NOT** give nitroglycerin if:
  - SBP < 90mmHg (or 30 mm Hg below the patient's known baseline),
  - Heart rate > 100 bpm, or < 50 bpm.
  - Right ventricular infarction (right ventricular infarction causes a preload dependent state)
  - Use of sildenafil or vardenafil within the previous 24 hours or tadalafil within the previous 48 hours.
- **Fentanyl 50µg IV** if pain is **NOT** relieved by the 3 doses of SL nitroglycerin. Repeat **once** if still in pain after 5 mins. For persistent pain, consult a **Cardiologist/Physician**. Consider **IVI nitroglycerin (see C/I above)**
- Consider **CXR**

\* available in **MDCalc**

The HEART Score for Chest Pain Patients in the ED		
History	• Highly Suspicious	• 2 points
	• Moderately Suspicious	• 1 point
	• Slightly or Non-Suspicious	• 0 points
ECG	• Significant ST-Depression	• 2 points
	• Nonspecific Repolarization	• 1 point
	• Normal	• 0 points
Age	• $\geq$ 65 years	• 2 points
	• > 45 - < 65 years	• 1 point
	• $\leq$ 45 years	• 0 points
Risk Factors	• $\geq$ 3 Risk Factors or History of CAD	• 2 points
	• 1 or 2 Risk Factors	• 1 point
	• No Risk Factors	• 0 points
Troponin	• $\geq$ 3 x Normal Limit	• 2 points
	• > 1 - < 3 x Normal Limit	• 1 point
	• $\leq$ Normal Limit	• 0 points
Risk Factors: DM, current or recent (<one month) smoker, HTN, HLP, family history of CAD, & obesity		
Score 0 – 3: 2.5% MACE over next 6 weeks → Discharge Home		
Score 4 – 6: 20.3% MACE over next 6 weeks → Admit for Clinical Observation		
Score 7 – 10: 72.7% MACE over next 6 weeks → Early Invasive Strategies		

