

**San Joaquin County
Emergency Medical Services Agency****BLS Chest Pain of Suspected Cardiac Origin**

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.60, 1797.80, 1797.197, 1797.197a, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 2, Sections 100062, 100063, 100064

INFORMATION NEEDED:

- Discomfort or pain: (OPQRST) Onset, Provocation, Quality, Radiation, Severity, Timing.
- Associated symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, diaphoresis, dyspnea, dizziness, palpitations, indigestion.
- Medical history: Other medical problems, including hypertension, diabetes or stroke.
- History of aspirin use: Has the patient taken an aspirin today? Does the patient usually take aspirin? Has the patient been advised by their private medical doctor to take one (1) aspirin a day?

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

- General Appearance: Level of distress, apprehension, skin color, diaphoresis.
- Signs of CHF: Dependent edema, respiratory distress, distended neck veins.
- Chest auscultation: Muffled heart sounds; lung sounds: stridor, wheezes, rales.
- Assess abdominal tenderness.
- Assess pain on a scale of 1-10.

TREATMENT:

1. Primary Survey - ensure ABC's.
2. Reassure patient and place in position of comfort, or supine if patient is hypotensive.
3. Ensure ALS Response.
4. Monitor SpO₂.
5. Administer oxygen for shortness of breath or signs of hypoxia: Oxygen 10 - 15 L/min via non-rebreathing mask, start at 2 L by cannula if patient has a history of COPD. Be prepared to support ventilations with appropriate airway adjuncts.
6. Re-assess patient.
7. EMT: Assist patient with taking their **OWN** sublingual nitroglycerin: Administer 1 tablet or metered spray dose sublingual, if systolic blood pressure is greater than 90. May be repeated every 5 minutes to a maximum of 3 doses, if systolic blood pressure remains greater than 90. Note: Nitroglycerin is contraindicated and should **NOT** be

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administered to patients of either gender who have taken Viagra, (sildenafil citrate) or Levitra (vardenafil HCL) within 24 hours or Cialis (tadalafil) within 36 hours.

8. Enhanced Skills EMT: Administer Aspirin 324mg tablet by mouth, if patient has not already taken aspirin.
9. Secondary Survey and Routine Medical Care.

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