



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Protocol No. R1
Updated April 15, 2014

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. Consider CPAP (Policy 5800)
- C. 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., Cialis, Levitra, Viagra, Revatio, Tadalafil, etc.).
- Refer to Policy 5800 for full details on CPAP