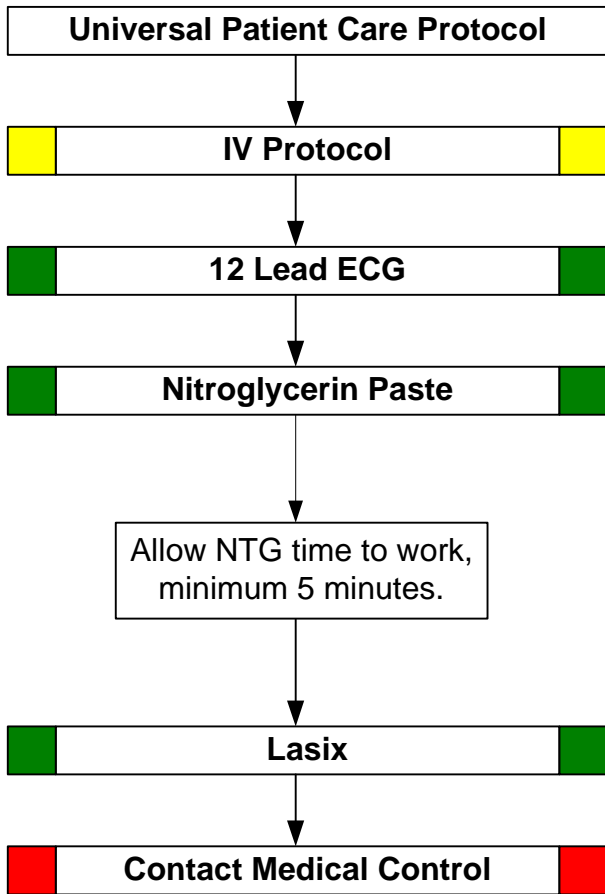


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

Hypertension

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Documented hypertension * Related diseases: diabetes, CVA, renal failure, cardiac * Medications (compliance?) * Viagra * Pregnancy | Signs and Symptoms: <p>One of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Systolic BP 200 or greater * Diastolic BP 120 or greater <p>AND at least one of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Headache * Nosebleed * Blurred Vision * Dizziness | Differential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hypertensive encephalopathy * Primary CNS Injury (Cushing's response) * Myocardial Infarction * Aortic dissection * Pre-eclampsia / Eclampsia |
|--|--|--|



| Legend | | |
|--------|--------------------|--|
| | MR / EMT | |
| | Expanded Scope EMT | |
| | EMT-I | |
| | EMT-P | |
| | Medical Control | |

Pearls:

- * Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Neck, Lung, Heart, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro
- * Avoid Nitroglycerin in patients who have used Viagra, Levitra, (or other meds for Erectile Dysfunction) in the past 24 hrs due to potential severe hypotension.
- * If hypertension is associated with head injury or CVA **Contact Medical Control** prior to giving any medication.
- * **Never treat elevated blood pressure based on one set of vital signs.**
- * Goal of treatment is to reduce diastolic blood pressure to between 100 – 110.
- * Symptomatic hypertension is typically revealed through end organ damage to the cardiac, CNS or renal systems.
- * All symptomatic patients with hypertension should be transported with their head elevated.