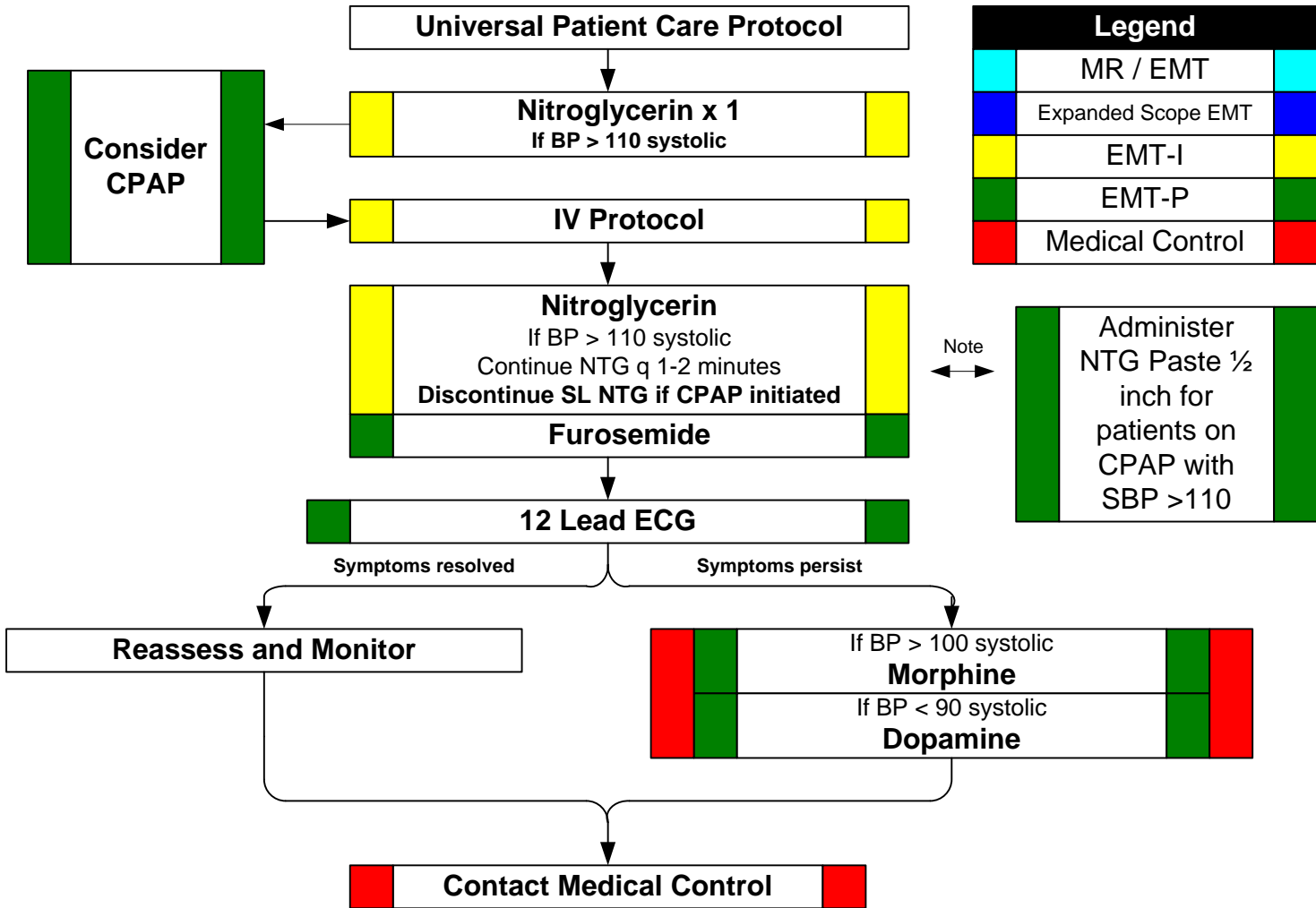


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

Pulmonary Edema

History: * Congestive heart failure * Past medical history * Medications (digoxin, lasix) * Viagra * Cardiac history -- past myocardial infarction	Signs and Symptoms: * Respiratory distress, bilateral rales * Apprehension, orthopnea * Jugular vein distention * Pink, frothy sputum * Peripheral edema, diaphoresis * Hypotension, shock * Chest pain	Differential: * Myocardial Infarction * Congestive heart failure * Asthma * Anaphylaxis * Aspiration * COPD * Pleural effusion * Pneumonia * Pulmonary embolus * Pericardial tamponade
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Pearls:

- * Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Neck, Lungs, 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.
- * Contraindications of Morphine include severe COPD and respiratory distress. Monitor the patient closely.
- * Consider Myocardial Infarction in all these patients.
- * Diabetics and geriatric patients often have atypical pain or only generalized complaints.
- * Allow patient to be in their position of comfort.
- * Careful monitoring of level of consciousness, BP, and respiratory status with above interventions is essential.
- * CPAP should be initiated in patients with moderate to severe distress.
- * Use of Lasix in patients with a fever is by **Medical Control Order** only.