



Hypertension



History

- Documented hypertension
- Related diseases: diabetes, CVA renal failure, cardiac
- Medications (compliance ?)
- Erectile dysfunction medication
- Pregnancy

Signs and Symptoms

One of these

- Systolic BP 200 or greater
- Diastolic BP 110 or greater

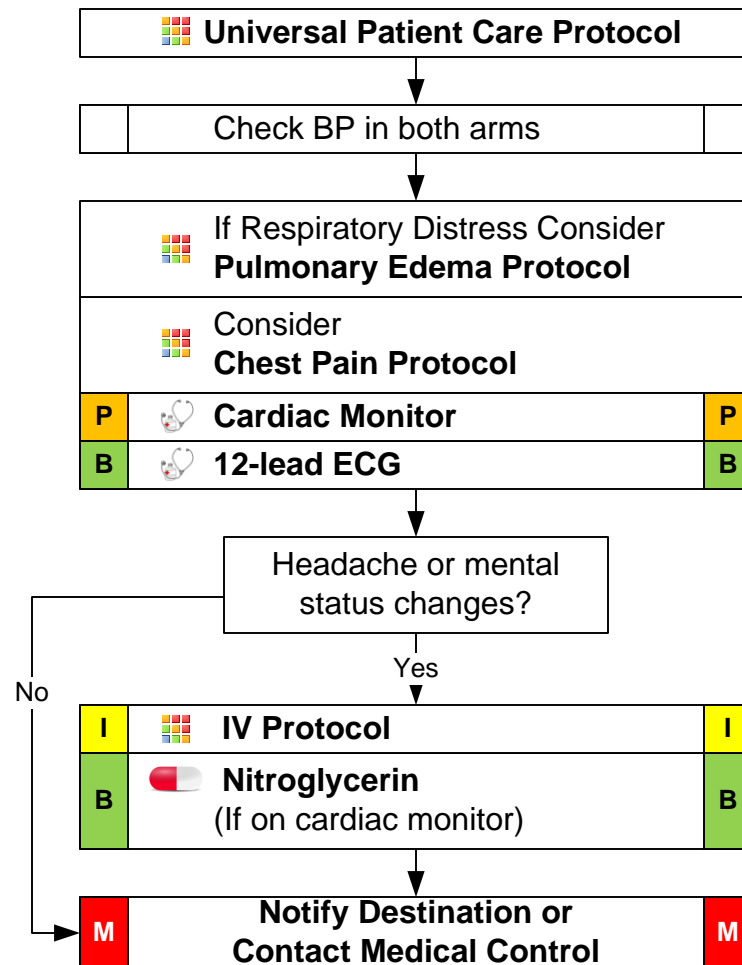
AND at least one of these

- Headache
- Nosebleed
- Blurred vision
- Dizziness

Differential

- Hypertensive encephalopathy
- Primary CNS Injury (Cushing's response = bradycardia with hypertension)
- Myocardial infarction
- Aortic dissection (aneurysm)
- Pre-ecampsia / Eclampsia

Legend		
	MR	
B	EMT	B
I	EMT- I	I
P	EMT- P	P
M	Medical Control	M



Medical Protocols

Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Neck, Lung, Heart, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro**
- **Avoid Nitroglycerin in any patient who has used Viagra or Levitra in the past 24 hours or Cialis in the past 36 hours due to potential severe hypotension.**
- Never treat elevated blood pressure based on one set of vital signs.
- Nitroglycerin may be given to lower blood pressure in patients who have an elevated diastolic BP of ≥ 110 and are symptomatic with chest pain, respiratory distress, syncope, headache or mental status changes.
- 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.