

# Pulmonary Edema



## History

- Congestive heart failure
- Past medical history
- Medications (digoxin, lasix)
- **Viagra, Levitra, Cialis**
- Cardiac history --past myocardial infarction

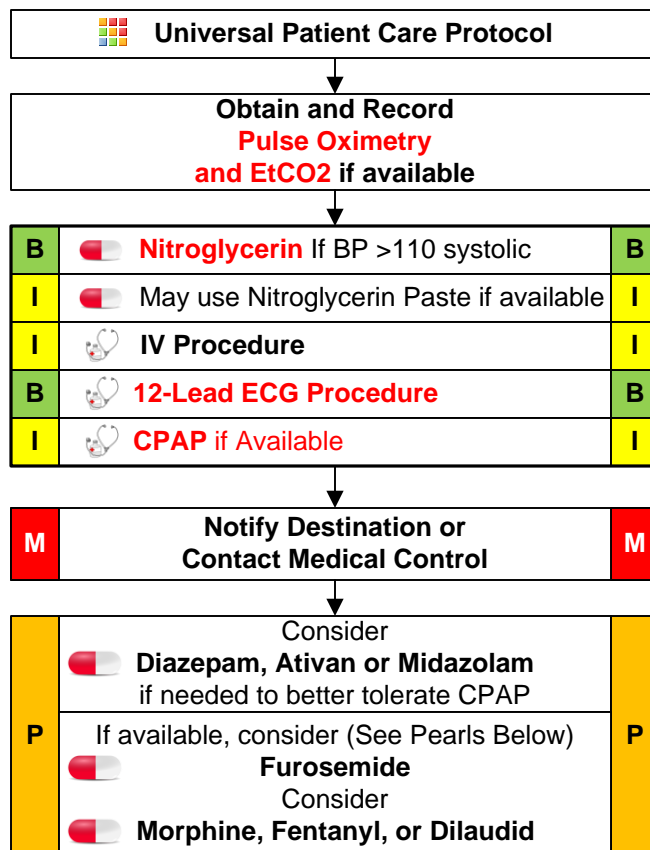
## Signs/Symptoms

- 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**
- **Toxic Exposure**

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**
- **Items in Red Text are key performance measures used to evaluate protocol compliance and care**
- **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.
- **Furosemide and Narcotics have NOT been shown to improve the outcomes of EMS patients with pulmonary edema. Even though this historically has been a mainstay of EMS treatment, it is no longer recommended.**
- If patient has taken nitroglycerin without relief, consider potency of the medication.
- Contraindications to narcotics 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.
- **Carefully monitor the level of consciousness, BP, and respiratory status with the above interventions.**
- If Nitropaste is used, do not continue to use Nitroglycerin SL
- Allow the patient to be in their position of comfort to maximize their breathing effort.
- Document CPAP application using the CPAP procedure in the PCR. Document 12 Lead ECG using the 12 Lead ECG procedure.