

Shortness of Breath – Pulmonary Edema	
BLS Procedures	
Administer oxygen as indicated	
Initiate CPAP for moderate to severe distress	
ALS Standing Orders	
Nitroglycerin	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SL or lingual spray – 0.4 mg q 1 min x 3<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Repeat 0.4 mg q 2 min○ No max dosage○ Hold for SBP < 100 mmHg	
If not already performed by BLS personnel, Initiate CPAP for moderate to severe distress	
Perform 12-lead ECG (Per VCEMS Policy 726)	
IV/IO access	
If wheezes are present and suspect COPD/Asthma, consider:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Albuterol<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nebulizer – 5 mg/6 mL<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeat as needed	
Communication Failure Protocol	
If patient presents or becomes hypotensive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Epinephrine 10 mcg/mL<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1mL (10 mcg) q 2 minutes, slow IV/IO push○ Titrate to SBP of greater than or equal to 90 mm/Hg	
Base Hospital Orders only	
Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures	
Additional Information:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to VCEMS Policy 735 for additional information on preparing push dose epinephrine solution.• Nitroglycerin is contraindicated when phosphodiesterase inhibitor medications [Sildenafil (Viagra and Revatio), Vardenafil (Levitra), and Tadalafil (Cialis)] have been recently used (Viagra or Levitra within 24 hours; Cialis within 48 hours). These medications are most commonly used to treat erectile dysfunction or pulmonary hypertension. In this situation, NTG may only be given by ED Physician order.	

Effective Date: March 1, 2019
Next Review Date: January 30, 2021

Date Revised: January 10, 2019
Last Reviewed: January 10, 2019



EMS Medical Director