

### **CLASS A: Chest Pain & Respiratory Distress**

### **PROTOCOL(S) USED IN: Chest Pain, Respiratory Distress**

#### **PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:**

- A. Vasodilator – preferential action on venous over arterial system. Reduces cardiac preload which in turn reduces myocardial oxygen demand and redistributes pulmonary edema to the venous system.

#### **INDICATIONS:**

- A. Chest, arm, neck pain thought to be anginal and related to coronary ischemia.
- B. Severe (typically flash) pulmonary edema

#### **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- A. Patients who have taken Viagra® (sildenafil citrate) or Levitra® (vardenafil HCl) within 24 hours, or who have taken Cialis® (tadalafil) within 48 hours. Contact OLMC for direction.
- B. Signs of inferior ischemia on EKG which could indicate RV infarction

#### **SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:**

- A. Common side effects are headache, flushing, dizziness or burning under the tongue.
- B. Hypotension; IV line should be established prior to administration
- C. NTG loses potency easily; should be stored in a dark glass container with tight lid and not exposed to heat.

#### **ADULT DOSING:**

**0.4 mg SL** every 3-5 minutes and titrating to effect as long as **systolic BP ≥ 100 mmHg**

**PEDIATRIC DOSING: Not recommended in pediatric patients.**