



**El Dorado County Emergency Medical  
Services Agency**  
Quick Reference

Revised Date: July 1, 2020

**Medication Profile**

**Nitroglycerin**  
(Nitrostat, Nitrobid)

**Class:**

Antianginal  
Vasodilator

**Action:**

Dilation of vascular smooth muscle.  
Decrease peripheral arterial resistance (afterload).  
Decrease in venous blood return (preload).  
Decrease BP and workload on the heart with decreased O<sub>2</sub> demand.  
Redistribution of coronary blood flow (dilation) improving the supply of O<sub>2</sub> to the hypoxic area through collateral coronary vessels.

**Onset:** 1-5 minutes

**Peak:** 1-5 minutes

**Duration:** 10-60 minutes

**Adult Administration:**

0.4mg SL (1spray/1tab). May Repeat every 5 minutes (Max 3 doses)

- Contact base for additional doses

Transdermal:

1" of NTG paste placed on applicator and applied to bare skin. (Left Chest preferred site)

**Pediatric Administration:**

Not recommended for prehospital use

**Indications:**

Chest pain/discomfort with suspected cardiac origin  
CHF/Pulmonary edema

**Contraindications:**

Hypersensitivity/allergy  
Increased intracranial pressure  
Hypotension  
Patients that have taken erectile dysfunction medications within the past 24-hours. May encounter patients taking similar medications for pulmonary hypertension. (Viagra, Cialis, Levitra, stendra, staxyn, sildenafil, avanafil, tadalafil, vardenafil).

**Side Effects:**

CV: Postural hypotension, tachycardia, CV collapse  
CNS: Headache, dizziness, flushing, vertigo, weakness  
GI: Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain  
INTEG: Pallor, sweating, rash, flushing

**Pregnancy:**

Category C

**Notes:**

- Healthcare provider may experience adverse effects if accidentally inhaled or absorbed.
- If complications occur such as hypotension, or the need to cardiovert or defibrillate arises you should remove the applicator and wipe the area clean with a towel or gauze