ALS Acute Pulmonary Edema

AUTHORITY: Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220 & 1798 et seq.

DEFINITIONS:

A. **Acute Pulmonary Edema**: Acute onset of respiratory difficulty with systolic blood pressure over 120. May have history of cardiac disease, rales, or occasional wheezes.

PROCEDURE:

I. Perform routine ALS/BLS medical care as directed in EMS Policy No. 5502, Routine BLS Care and EMS Policy No. 5701, Routine ALS Care.

II. Treatment:

A. Oxygen 12 - 15 lpm via non-rebreather mask.
B. Initiate IV access.
C. Nitroglycerin 0.4 mg spray or tablets, repeat every 5 minutes if systolic blood pressure remains greater than 100mmHg.

D. If patient is in severe respiratory distress, consider CPAP (Policy No. 2554, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure).

D.E. If using CPAP and patient cannot tolerate further sublingual nitroglycerin, apply one (1) inch of nitroglycerine paste to the patient’s chest wall. Remove the paste if systolic blood pressure falls below 90mmHg.