



Nausea/Vomiting

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Approval: Victoria Pinette – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2024

Notes/Considerations

- Nausea/vomiting can be symptoms of a multitude of different causes. If possible, the specific underlying cause should be determined and treated. EMS personnel should realize that the use of an antiemetic may relieve symptoms while leaving the cause untreated, and possibly, more difficult to detect. EMS personnel should weigh the benefits of antiemetic use against the possible risk of making an accurate diagnosis more difficult, and the possible side effects of the antiemetic agent.
- Treatment of nausea/vomiting is warranted for pts where it may contribute to a worsening of their medical condition, or where the pt's airway may be endangered.
- EMS personnel may consider administering Zofran (Ondansetron) prophylactically, prior to or immediately after opioid administration, for a pt with a history of nausea/vomiting secondary to opioid administration. Zofran (Ondansetron) may also be administered prior to transport to a pt with a history of motion sickness.

BLS

- Assess V/S, including SpO<sub>2</sub>
- O<sub>2</sub> at appropriate rate if SpO<sub>2</sub> <94% or short of breath
- Assess/treat underlying cause of nausea/vomiting as appropriate

ALS

- Cardiac monitor
- Consider vascular access (may bolus up to 1000 mL)
- Check blood glucose if hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia suspected, and treat as necessary according to appropriate protocol

Zofran (Ondansetron)

**Base/modified base hospital consultation is required prior to administration of Zofran (Ondansetron) to any pt <4 yo or any pt during the first 8 weeks of pregnancy**

**Adult Pts (≥15 yo)**

- 4 - 8 mg ODT (oral disintegrating tablet), or 4 - 8 mg IM, or 4 - 8 mg slow IV/IO (over 30 seconds)
- May repeat as needed (max total dose: 16 mg)

**Pediatric Pts (4 - 14 yo)**

- 4 mg ODT (oral disintegrating tablet), or 4 mg IM, or 4 mg slow IV/IO (over 30 seconds)
- Additional doses require base/modified base hospital consultation

Monitor & reassess