CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual:	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number: 510.10 Page: 1 of 2
Subject:	Basic Life Support (BLS) Protocols **CHEST PAIN**	
References:	California Administrative Code, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2	Effective: 11/15/83

I. TREATMENT

A. ABCs – Assessment and treatment.

B. Oxygen -low flow 6 liters/minute nasal cannula, high flow 15 liters/minute with mask and reservoir bag if in respiratory distress. 2 liters/minute via nasal cannula if history of COPD.

C. Aspirin - Two tablets of 81 mg PO (chewable), one dose maximum, if patient's history is strongly suggestive of cardiac ischemia, even if pain resolves

D. Reassure patient/calm patient.

E. Position of comfort (often semi-reclining position).

F. PREVENT PATIENTS FROM EXERTION.

G. Transport Code 2 in safe but expedient manner.

NOTE: Consider prehospital ALS rendezvous.

H. If patient wants his own nitroglycerine, only allow patient to have it if his blood pressure is greater or equal to 110 systolic, is still having severe chest pain, and no focal neurological deficit. Check blood pressure after nitroglycerine administration. If blood pressure drops below 90 systolic, lay patient down.

NOTE: Contact base hospital for further advice.

II. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. The administration of nitroglycerin is done by the patient or family member and the decision to administer is made by the patient or by the patient's physician.

Approved By: EMS Director	**Daniel J. Lynch** (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision **06/01/2018**
EMS Medical Director	**James Andrews, M.D.** (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

Subject:	Basic Life Support (BLS) Protocols – Chest Pain	Policy Number: 510.10

B. Further Evaluation:

Use Mnemonic - “OPQRST”:

“O” onset
“P” provocation
“Q” quality
“R” radiation
“S” severity
“T” time

C. History (i.e., signs/symptoms, allergies, medications, past medical history, last oral intake, events leading to present emergency).