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Executive Director

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Medical Director

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NAUSEA OR VOMITING

- I. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE: To serve as the treatment standard for EMT-Is and EMT-Ps in treating patients.
- III. PROTOCOL:

Nausea or Vomiting may be due to a viral illness (such as gastroenteritis), motion sickness brought on by vehicle movement, or medication side effects. However, it is important to remember that more serious medical conditions also produce nausea or vomiting such as stroke, head injuries, toxic ingestions, bowel obstruction, appendicitis and acute coronary syndrome. Generally, benign causes of nausea or vomiting do not have any associated pain complaints. Likewise, pain or alterations in level of consciousness with associated nausea or vomiting tend to have more serious etiologies.

STANDING ORDERS

CAB	Always be prepared to protect the airway and anticipate vomiting
OXYGEN:	Consider oxygen therapy, high flow for decreased level of consciousness
MONITOR:	Treat rhythm as appropriate.
CONSIDER IV ACCESS:	TKO
CONSIDER FLUID BOLUS:	For prolonged history of vomiting with exam findings suggesting dehydration (dry mucous membranes, tachycardia, hypotension, poor skin turgor, delayed capillary refill), administer 500cc normal saline bolus. Recheck vitals. May repeat x1.
CONSIDER ONDANSETRON	For severe nausea or persistent vomiting: Administer 4mg IV/IM. May repeat every 10 minutes to a maximum of 12mg. Note: administer IV dose over 1 minute (slow IV push). Ondansetron is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivities to Ondansetron or similar medications such as Dolasetron (Anzemet®), Granisetron (Kytril®), Palonosetron (Aloxi®)

Key Treatment Considerations

- Rapid administration of Ondansetron has been associated with increased side effects, most notably syncope. Ondansetron must be administered SLOWLY over 1 minute.
- Other rare side effects of Ondansetron include headache, dizziness, tachycardia, sedation, or hypotension.
- Ondansetron is SAFE for use in pregnancy or breast-feeding mothers.