

Overview of RN-Initiated Treatment for Chest Pain or Discomfort Suggestive of Acute Coronary Syndrome

The first 10-15 minutes



Assessment

- Assess symptoms using PQRST
- Consider atypical presentations
- Measure vital signs
- Complete focused health and medication history



Interventions

- Get help, get a 12-lead ECG
- Give ASA*
- Consider nitroglycerin spray SL**
- Initiate bloodwork
- Treat hypoxia
- 1:1 Nursing care during episode



Ongoing care

- Continue to monitor vitals, SpO2 and symptoms.
- If symptoms not resolved or patient deteriorates, activate local emergency response system
- Transfer to higher level of care, if required



Communicate

- Document assessments, interventions and patient responses
- Debrief with Team
- Inform and support patient and family

*ASA 160-320mg should be chewed and swallowed. Do not give if person has true ASA allergy, active GI bleeding, or definitely took ASA within past 24hrs

**Nitroglycerin 1-2 sprays q 5-10minutes to a max dose of 3 sprays in 15minutes. Hold if SBP <90mmHg or if person took phosphodiesterase inhibitor

Please refer to agency-specific guidelines

For full text refer to Emergency Cardiac Care Decision Support Tool #3

