



# UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY

## MEMORANDUM

26-056

April 10, 2026

TO: All UFA EMS Providers

FROM: Division Chief Ayres

SUBJECT: Protocol Clarification – Nitroglycerin (Nitro) and Hypertension

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This memo clarifies current practice regarding prehospital use of nitroglycerin: while nitroglycerin can be clinically useful in some hypertensive emergencies, and prior language in the [Nitroglycerin medication reference](#) suggested this as an indication, UFA protocol does not support using sublingual nitroglycerin solely for treatment of hypertension outside the setting of suspected acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

The prior language referred to rare cases in which patients acute or “flash” pulmonary edema present with sudden onset respiratory distress in the setting of severe hypertension. In these cases, nitroglycerin be considered, but only in consultation with online medical control.

For any questions about nitroglycerin indications, contraindications, or administration, please contact Amanda O’Driscoll in the EMS Division.