San Joaquin County
Emergency Medical Services Agency

BLS NAUSEA / VOMITING

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.60, 1797.80, 1797.197, 1797.197a, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 3.1, Sections 100066.01

INFORMATION NEEDED:

Discomfort: location, quality, severity, onset of symptoms, duration, aggravation, alleviation.
Associated symptoms: nausea, emesis, diarrhea, fever, diaphoresis, vertigo, "heart burn".
Gastrointestinal: time and description of last meal, time of last bowel movement, signs of blood in stool.
Gynecological: date of last menstrual period, possible pregnancy, history of vaginal bleeding.
Medical history: surgery, related diagnosis (infection, hepatitis, stones, etc.), medication (OTC and prescribed), self-administered remedies (baking soda, Epsom salts, enemas).

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

General appearance: level of distress, skin color, diaphoresis.
Abdominal tenderness: guarding, rigidity, distention, rebound Pulsating masses (aneurysm).

TREATMENT:

1. Primary Survey – ensure ABC's.
2. Place patient in position of comfort or supine with legs elevated if patient is hypotensive.
3. Monitor SpO2.
4. Administer oxygen for shortness of breath or signs of hypoxia: Oxygen 10-15 L/min via non-rebreathing mask. Patients with ineffective respirations: support ventilations with BVM and airway.
5. ~~**Transport providers only:**~~ For persistent nausea ~~/~~ vomiting in for patients older than > 6 months~~the adult (≥ 18 years) non pregnant patient~~:
   a. Ondansetron 4 mg oral dissolving tablet (ODT).
   b. Advise patients not to swallow ODT and allow medication to dissolve in mouth.
6. Secondary Survey and Routine Medical Care.

Note: Completion of a thorough secondary exam and patient history are essential to identify potential cardiac involvement or early signs of shock.

Approved:

Medical Director

EMS Administrator

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** Contact the base hospital if additional orders are needed or the patient has atypical presentation.

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Approved:

Medical Director

EMS Administrator