

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
EMT – Paramedic**

SMO: Administration of Nitronox (Nitrous Oxide 50% and Oxygen 50%)

Overview: To provide pain relief in patients over the age of 16 with extremity injuries and fractures, back injuries, and burns (exception: burns to face and airway).

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- Severe pain related to extremity injuries, back injuries and burns (exception: burns to face and airway)
- Pt is alert and oriented and able to *self administer* medication
- Ambulance is well ventilated

TREATMENT (note if there are any contraindications before use)

- Assess patient to include careful auscultation of lungs
- Routine Medical Care
- Obtain SAMPLE history
- Notify Resource Hospital of patient requiring analgesia
- Make sure ambulance is well ventilated
- Instruct patient to administer Nitronox
- Patient must *self administer* Nitronox
- Discontinue Nitronox if any adverse reactions

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- Vitals, history
- Location and nature of pain
- Nitronox *self administered* by patient
- Tolerance and results of medication administration
- Use of medical control

Medical Control Contact Criteria

- Contact medical control to inform that Nitronox was used and if there is any question as to the appropriateness of use on any patient
- Contact medical control for additional pain management if Nitronox not tolerated or not effective

PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

Contraindications

- Patients with hypersensitivity
- Altered state of consciousness from head injury or drug or alcohol abuse or from apparent preceding "psychiatric disorders"
- COPD
- Acute Pulmonary Edema
- Pneumothorax
- Maxillofacial injuries
- Decompression sickness (the "bends")
- Baro trauma
- Pregnant patients
- Acute abdominal emergencies (contact medical control prior to administration)

Additional Information

- Takes effect in 1-3 minutes
- Wears off in 1-3 minutes
- Fire Hazard - similar to Oxygen
- Side Effects:
 - Most Common
 - Light headedness
 - Drowsiness
 - Anxiety
 - Less Common
 - Nausea; vomiting
 - Confusion
 - Tingling sensation
 - Numbness
 - Slurred speech
 - Dizziness
 - Euphoria