



**ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT PROCEDURES**  
**BLS PROVIDER ASSISTING WITH ASPIRIN FOR CHEST**  
**PAIN/CARDIAC ISCHEMIA**

#: B-25  
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Revised: 08/03/2020

**INDICATIONS:**

- Patient with own aspirin and chest pain consistent with cardiac origin who is awake and alert.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- Known aspirin allergy
- History unreliable or unobtainable
- Patient's aspirin is expired or obviously deteriorated

**EQUIPMENT:**

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Blood pressure cuff and stethoscope
- Oxygen delivery equipment

**PROCEDURE:**

- Assure that ALS responders are en-route
- Perform a complete assessment on the patient to include medical history, medications, and allergies to medication
- Place patient in a position of comfort and administer oxygen at a flow rate that is appropriate for the patient and condition
- If patient is having active chest pain or discomfort, ask if they have already taken a dose of aspirin
- If aspirin taken, determine how much has been taken and when it was taken
- If not contraindicated and no aspirin has previously been taken, assist patient in chewing or swallowing either four "baby" (81 mg) tablets or one 325 mg tablet
- Resume oxygen therapy after administration of medication
- Update vital signs five (5) minutes after administration and document

**DOCUMENTATION:**

- Complete Assessment including initial and updated vital signs
- Description of the need to assist the patient with aspirin
- Time for aspirin assisted administration and brand name of aspirin taken

**NOTES:**

- Give detailed report to ALS personnel when they arrive, including time(s) and dose(s) aspirin taken by patient
- Refer to Standing Order SO-C-15 for the BLS/ALS management of the patient with chest pain or discomfort

Approved:

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