

Special Procedures

S-12 Intranasal Medication Administration

In the absence of an established IV, use of the intranasal (IN) route is a rapid alternative to administer certain approved medications. The IN route can also reduce the risk of needle sticks while still delivering effective medication levels.

The nasal cavity has a rich vasculature to provide a direct route for some medications to be absorbed across the mucous membrane. Due to this, the effectiveness of the medication is relatively comparable to IV administration.

BLS Approved Medications for IN Route

Effective July 1, 2017
Naloxone (Narcan)

ALS Approved Medications for IN Route

Fentanyl (Sublimaze)
Naloxone (Narcan)
Midazolam (Versed)

Refer to the specific protocols for medications dosages.

Indications

The IN route may be used as an optional medication administration route for patients without IV/IO access who require urgent medication administration. An atomization device must be used to accomplish this.

Contraindications

- Epistaxis
- Nasal Trauma
- Nasal Septal Abnormalities
- Nasal Congestion or Discharge

Precautions

- Nasal administration may not work for every patient.
- Nasal administration is less likely to be effective if the patient has been abusing inhaled vasoconstrictors; such as, but not limited to, decongestants or cocaine.

Procedure

1. Determine appropriate medication dose, per protocol draw medication into a syringe using the appropriate size needle.
2. Purge air from syringe.
3. Detach needle and place the atomization device on the end of the syringe.
4. Depress the syringe to eliminate the dead space within the device. Refer to manufacturer's recommendation on the dead space of the device.
5. Gently insert the atomization device into the nare. Stop once resistance is felt.
6. Administer the medication when the patient fully exhales but before inhalation. **Administer ½ the dose in each nare.** Do not exceed 1mL per nare.
7. Assess the patient for effectiveness of the medication and document the findings. Consider repeating the dose, per protocol, if the medication is not effective and if protocol allows.

DISRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS

In the event of a "disrupted communications" situation, Solano County Paramedics may utilize all portions of this treatment protocol without Base Hospital Contact as needed to stabilize an immediate patient.