



# State of New Hampshire

## Department of Safety

Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services  
 98 Smokey Bear Boulevard, Concord, New Hampshire  
 Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03305-0002

Business: (603) 223-4200 Fax: (603) 271-1091



Robert L. Quinn  
 Commissioner

Justin A. Cutting  
 Director

# CLINICAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title			Date Issued
80	Nicardipine for Interfacility Transport of Stroke Patients			January 31, 2023
Superseded	Released By	Approved By	Source	For More Information
	FSTEMS	Dr. Joey Scollan		FST/EMS (603) 223-4200

Situation: Stroke patients being transferred to specialized stroke centers may require acute blood pressure control during interfacility transfer by EMS services. Often this is in the form of a nicardipine drip which is started in the emergency department of the transferring facility. There have been instances where stroke patients (especially post thrombolysis) have developed acute hypertension in need of control only after they have departed the transferring facility and therefore never had nicardipine started while in the ED. As nicardipine is not currently listed as an approved medication carried by licensed paramedic units, a potential treatment gap for a critical condition has been identified.

Recommendation: Prior to transfer of any stroke patient who may develop acute hypertension in need of immediate control, **transferring physicians should strongly consider** providing the transporting EMS unit with nicardipine and provide initiation and titration guidelines on the appropriate transfer paperwork. New Hampshire EMS Medical Director Dr. Joey Scollan, along with Dr. Robby Rix (Chair) and the New Hampshire Medical Control Board, believes this is an acceptable practice that falls within the current New Hampshire Patient Care Protocol – Interfacility Transfer 7.3 and is in the best interest of patient care.

For distribution to all EMS medical directors, emergency physicians, paramedic interfacility transfer (PIFT) providers and licensed EMS unit leadership.