

# Northeast Ohio Regional EMS Protocol

## Notice to EMS Providers 5/10/2021

[X] Protocol changes: 4/5, 10/5, 6/10 Ketamine dosing interval

[ ] Clinical equipment changes

[X] Informational item: Ketamine

A Product of Collaboration



Ketamine use has been receiving national attention and the local EMS medical directors want to take the opportunity to reinforce important points regarding use for our patients.

Ketamine has specific indications in pre-procedural sedation, pain management, and the care of severe agitation including excited delirium.

**PROTOCOL CHANGE:** (Reflected in NEO Regional EMS Protocols 2021 R2) Section 4/5 & 10/5

- For acute agitation/excited delirium, the time between doses of Ketamine has been INCREASED from 2 min to 5 min between doses for adults and pediatrics.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

- Ketamine is a useful therapeutic tool in the treatment of patients who are combative, violent, or who are seriously threatening behavior that poses danger to themselves or others.
  - It should not be used to treat any level of anxiety, including moderate or severe anxiety.
  - It should not be used for the sole purpose of facilitating arrest and police transport in individuals not cooperating with police.
- Ketamine should be used with caution in pregnant patients. At times, there will be clear indications for the use of ketamine for violent, severely agitated pregnant women when risk of self-harm (which includes harm to the fetus) is present. Please contact Medical Direction for any questions on the use of ketamine in pregnant women.
- Ketamine is currently indicated in patients age 16 or older AND with a minimum weight of 50kg. Use in younger populations may be addressed in future protocol updates.
- NOTE PROTOCOL CHANGE: For acute agitation/excited delirium, the time between doses of Ketamine has been INCREASED from 2 min to 5 min between doses for adults and pediatrics.
- EMS should clearly communicate the use of ketamine to the receiving medical team in the ER. This communication is even more important when using higher doses when treating the violent, combative, or severely agitated patients since the patient's subsequent mental status may be confused with other types of illnesses, intoxications, or injuries.

(Protocol changes impact the following protocol pages of NEO EMS Protocol 2021 R1: 56, 62, 146, 217)