



State of West Virginia
Department of Health and Human Resources
Bureau for Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services

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Memorandum

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Temporary relief protocol 4208 Tachycardia

Verapamil may be substituted for diltiazem in protocol 4208. Acute setting 5 mg IV over 2 minutes. A 2nd dose of 10 mg IV over 2 minutes **PER MEDICAL COMMAND PHYSICIAN** may be given 15-30 minutes later if needed. Further dosages need an order **PER MEDICAL COMMAND PHYSICIAN**.

In Elderly - administer over at least 3 minutes to avoid reactions.

Contraindications include: severe LV dysfunction, hypotension SBP 90, cardiogenic shock, sick sinus syndrome without pacemaker, 2nd or 3rd degree AV block without pacemaker, A-Fib/flutter conducted via accessory pathway i.e., Wolff-Parkinson-White. Severe congestive heart failure (unless secondary to a supraventricular tachycardia amenable to verapamil therapy).

Major Side Effects include hypotension, heart block, Heart Failure. If the patient is symptomatic, call **MEDICAL COMMAND PHYSICIAN** for treatment.

NOTE: When Diltiazem is available, agencies that have purchased Verapamil can use it until its expiration and then use Diltiazem.