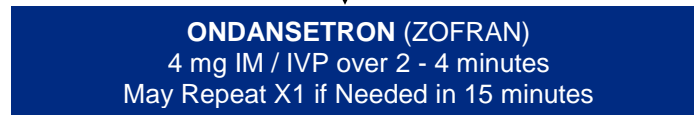
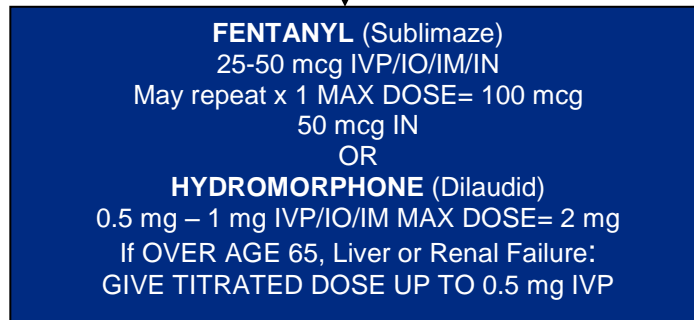
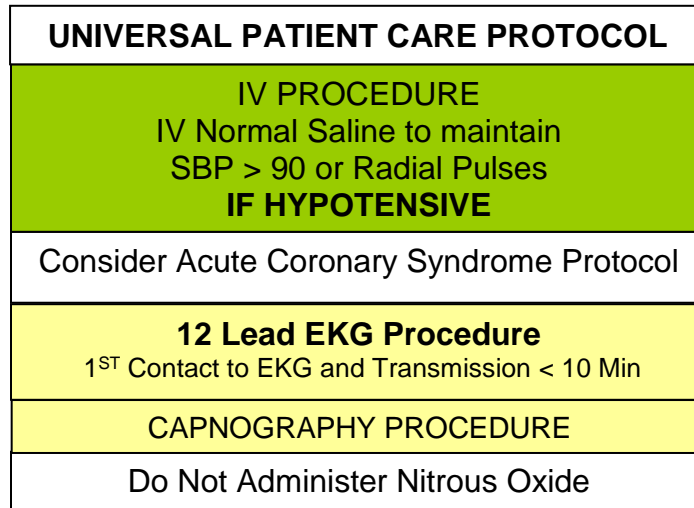




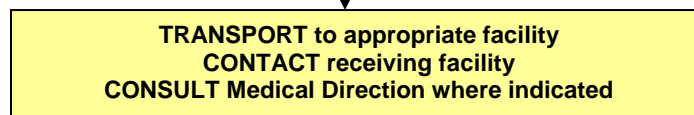
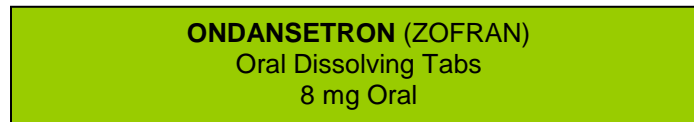
Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: ABDOMINAL PAIN

E	EMT	E
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P
M	MED CONTROL	M



OR





Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: ABDOMINAL PAIN-Cont.

PEARLS and KEY POINTS

HISTORY	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Past medical / surgical history • Medications • Onset • Palliation / provocation • Quality (crampy, constant, sharp, dull, etc.) • Region / radiation / referred pain • Severity (1-10) • Time (duration / repetition) • Fever • Last meal eaten • Last bowel movement / emesis • Menstrual history (pregnancy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain (location / migration) • Tenderness • Nausea • Vomiting • Diarrhea • Dysuria • Constipation • Vaginal bleeding / discharge • Pregnancy <p>Associated symptoms: (Helpful to localize source)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever, headache, weakness, malaise, myalgias, cough, headache, mental status changes, rash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pneumonia or pulmonary embolus • Liver (hepatitis, CHF) • Peptic ulcer disease / gastritis • Gallbladder • Myocardial infarction • Pancreatitis • Kidney stone • Abdominal aneurysm • Appendicitis • Bladder / prostate disorder • Pelvic (PID, ectopic pregnancy, ovarian cyst) • Spleen enlargement • Diverticulitis • Bowel obstruction • Gastroenteritis (infectious)

- Exam: Mental Status, Skin, HEENT, Neck, Heart, Lung, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro
- Abdominal pain in women of childbearing age should be treated as an ectopic pregnancy until proven otherwise.
- The diagnosis of abdominal aneurysm should be considered with abdominal pain in patients over 50.
- Appendicitis may present with vague, peri-umbilical pain, which migrates, to the RLQ over time.
- It is important to remember that abdominal pain can be caused by a large number of different disease processes. The organ systems that may be involved in abdominal pain include esophagus, stomach, intestinal tract, liver, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, male and female genital organs, bladder, as well as referred pain from the chest that can involve the heart, lungs or pleura. Abdominal pain may also be caused by muscular and skeletal problems.
- Abdominal pain emergencies are likely to lead to death due to hypovolemia. There may also be severe electrolyte abnormalities that can cause arrhythmias.
- Myocardial infarction may present as abdominal pain especially in the diabetic and elderly.
- In some patients, cardiac chest pain may manifest as abdominal pain. Consider this in all patients with abdominal pain, especially patients with diabetes and in women.
- If the abdominal pain may be of cardiac origin, perform cardiac monitoring and a 12-Lead EKG. DKA may present with abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. Check blood glucose level.