



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Medication Protocol:  
Morphine**

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## MORPHINE (Medication Protocol)

### EMT-INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS

**IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS MEDICATION MAY BE ADMINISTERED ONLY AFTER VOICE AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN GRANTED EITHER BY A WYOMING LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR A PHYSICIAN SUPPORT PERSON (PA) ACTING AS THE AGENT OF A WYOMING LICENSED PHYSICIAN, OR BY A WYOMING LICENSED REGISTERED NURSE; RELAYING THE AUTHORIZATION FROM A WYOMING LICENSED PHYSICIAN WITH WHOM THE NURSE HAS DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS VIA RADIO OR TELEPHONE.**

### PARAMEDIC PROVIDERS

#### STANDING ORDER

**CLASS:** Narcotic analgesic

**PHARMACOLOGY/  
ACTIONS:** Extremely potent narcotic analgesic. It dilates peripheral vasculature (reducing pre-load and after-load and decreasing myocardial oxygen demand). Morphine also tends to reduce the respiratory rate and tidal volume and causes pupils to constrict. It reduces apprehension and anxiety. The vasodilatation should cause no problems if patients are supine and not upright, volume depleted, or have a decreased cardiac output. The onset of action is immediate if given IV. Peak effects are seen within 20 minutes.

**ONSET/DURATION:** Onset: 1-2 min / Duration: 2-7 hr

**USE IN FIELD/  
INDICATIONS:**

- Cardiac suspected chest pain **after** administration of nitroglycerin according to protocol
- Pain control in the absence of hypotension

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Hypotension, Head or abdominal injuries, ICP, Respiratory difficulties. Major blood loss (hypovolemia).  
Relative contraindication in patients who have taken alcohol, tricyclic antidepressants, MAO inhibitors, or other depressants.

**SIDE EFFECTS:** Respiratory depression, hypotension, nausea and vomiting, decreased LOC, constricted pupils, urinary retention.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** CNS depressants may potentiate effects of morphine (respiratory

depression, hypotension, sedation). Phenothiazines and benzodiazepines may potentiate analgesia. MAO inhibitors may cause paradoxical excitation.

**ROUTE:** IM, IV, IO

<b>DOSAGE:</b>	<b>ADULT</b>	<b>PEDIATRIC (&lt;45 kg)</b>
	2-5 mg slow IV/IO or 5-10 mg IM, every 5-15 minutes. May be repeated as directed by medical control. Paramedics may administer up to 20 mg prior to medical control contact.	0.1 mg/kg slow IV/IO/IM, every 5-15 minutes. May be repeated as directed by medical control. Paramedics may administer up to 10 mg prior to medical control contact.

**PREGNANCY SAFETY:** Category B – unproven or unknown risk to fetus, and no risk in later trimesters

**COMMENTS:** **SCHEDULE II NARCOTIC:**  
**Security protocol is the responsibility of Jackson Hole Fire/EMS.**

DEA Schedule II drug with potential for abuse.  
Closely monitor the patient's blood pressure before and after administration of Morphine. Use with caution in the elderly, those with asthma, and in those susceptible to CNS depression. Naloxone should be readily available.