

# Clear Creek EMS

## PROCEDURES

### **Cardizem (Diltiazem)**

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#### **Description**

- Cardizem is a calcium channel blocking medication that is used to treat certain arrhythmias. Cardizem is also a potent vasodilator and depresses conductivity through the AV (atrioventricular) node.
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#### **Onset & Duration**

- Response usually occurs within 3 minutes and maximal heart rate reduction generally occurs in 2 to 7 minutes. Heart rate reduction may last from 1 to 3 hours.
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#### **Indication(s)**

- Symptomatic atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter with rapid ventricular response (HR>140)
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#### **Contraindications**

- **Absolute Contraindication – Wide Complex Irregular Tachycardia (>200bpm)**
  - Pediatric (<13 Years of Age)
  - Known Allergy
  - Wide Complex Tachycardia
  - Wolf-Parkinson-White (WPW) Syndrome
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree AV block, Sick Sinus Syndrome
  - Concurrent use of beta blockers
  - Hypotension
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#### **Adverse Reactions**

- Hypotension
  - Bradycardia
  - Acute Hepatic Injury
  - Prolonged AV nodal conduction and refractoriness may result in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree AV block
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#### **Dosage & Administration**

- 0.25mg/kg upto 20mg **SLOW** IV/IO push, over 2 minutes.
  - **Contact Base** for repeat dosing
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#### **Special Considerations**

- Unstable patients should be treated with rapid synchronized cardioversion. The goal of treatment should be rate control in a stable, symptomatic patient.