

MICU Treatment Protocols

**Norepinephrine (Levophed)**

Indications: Acute hypotension, shock

Contra-indications: Hypersensitivity, ventricular fibrillation, tachy-dysrhythmias.

Adverse Effects: Dizziness, palpitations, tachycardia, HTN, PVC-s, angina, nausea, vomiting, necrosis, tissue sloughing with extravasation, dyspnea, decreased urine output.

Administration: 2-12 mcg/min IV infusion. Titrate until patient-s systolic BP is > 90 mmHg. (Norepinephrine is contra-indicated in hypovolemia).

MICU Directives:

1. Follow generalized protocol for MICU transports.
2. If possible, administer through large vein (i.e., antecubital), central line is preferred. A second peripheral line of NS or LR is also preferred.
3. Monitor blood pressure every 5-10 minutes.
4. Frequently assess for undesirable effects of increased preload and afterload.
5. Caution in use with patients with MI, as may increase infarct.

MCA Approved	05/01			
Implement	05/01			