

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

3L GASTROINTESTINAL EMERGENCIES

PATIENT CARE GOALS

- Identify and treat potential life threats that involve abdominal/gastrointestinal complaints.¹
- Improve patient comfort while maintaining adequate oxygenation, ventilation, and perfusion.

EMT

ADULT	PEDIATRIC (less than 60 kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the patient and provide initial care including oxygen and vascular access, per 1B General Assessment and Care. Consider potential life threats.¹ 2. For hypotension, administer a normal saline fluid bolus 500 ml IV/IO, and then reassess vital signs and clinical status. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the patient and provide initial care including oxygen and vascular access, per 1B General Assessment and Care. Consider potential life threats.¹ 2. For hypotension, administer age appropriate IV/IO fluid bolus according to Handtevy Pediatric Guidelines² and then reassess vital signs and clinical status.

PARAMEDIC

ADULT	PEDIATRIC (less than 60 kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Treat pain and nausea as outlined in 1C Pain and Nausea Management. 4. For persistent hypotension, continue administering IV fluids as needed 5. If hypotension does not respond to 2 liters of fluid therapy, continue IV fluids wide open and start a dopamine (Intropin) infusion at 2 to 20 mcg/kg/minute titrated to effect. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Treat pain and nausea as outlined in 1C Pain and Nausea Management. 4. For persistent hypotension, continue administering IV fluids as needed according to Handtevy Pediatric Guidelines². 5. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> If hypotension does not respond to fluid therapy, contact Medical Control, who may order a dopamine (Intropin) infusion at 2 to 20 mcg/kg/minute. </div>

DOCUMENTATION KEY POINTS

- Pertinent history, including previous gastrointestinal problems and alcohol use.
- Assessment of pain, including time of onset, quality, location and radiation, severity on a 0 to 10 scale, and response to medications and other care.

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- Nausea, vomiting (including amount and character of emesis), respiratory distress, and other signs/symptoms related to the gastrointestinal problem.
- Pertinent lab values and other diagnostic results from sending facilities.

NOTES

¹ **Abdominal pain** or other complaints may involve gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecological (e.g., ectopic pregnancy), or cardiovascular (e.g., AMI, abdominal aortic aneurysm) problems. Consider possibility of ectopic pregnancy in any sexually active female patient of child-bearing age.

² **Handtevy pediatric fluid bolus guidelines:**

- **Patients up to 4 months old:** Administer a 10 ml/kg normal saline bolus.
- **Patients 4 months to 11 years old:** Administer a 20 ml/kg normal saline bolus.
- **Patients greater than 11 years old:** Administer a 1 Liter normal saline bolus.