Cardizem (Diltiazem)

Indications: Interfacility transport of a patient where control of rapid ventricular response with A-fib/A-flutter or PSVT is initiated by the sending facility.

Contra-indications: Allergy, hypotension, second and third degree heart block or V-tach.

Typical Sending Facility Initial Administration:
Initial dose 20 mg (0.25 mg/kg) slow IV push over 2 minutes. Second dose at 25 mg (0.35 mg/kg) slow IV push 15 minutes after first dose if indicated. DRIP: Continuous infusion at 5-15 mg/hr.

Procedure:

1. Follow protocol for **Interfacility Patient Transfer**.

2. Establish a target heart rate range in discussion with the receiving facility, typically between 70 and 120 bpm.

3. Continue the diltiazem drip at the rate established by the sending facility.

4. If the heart rate is consistently (3-5 minutes) more than 10 bpm above the target rate increase the diltiazem drip in 5 mg increments every 15 minutes (up to 15 mg/hr total) as necessary to control heart rate.

5. If the heart rate is consistently (3-5 minutes) more than 10 bpm below the target rate stop the diltiazem drip.

6. Discontinue if patient develops hypersensitivity (rash) or hemodynamic instability (BP < 90 mm Hg).