

When to Perform an ECG?



These patients require a 12 Lead ECG and/or Triage immediately.

- Chest pain or persistent discomfort above the waist
- Chest pressure or tightness
- "Heartburn" or epigastric pain
- Complaints of "*heart racing*" (HR >150 or irregular and >120)
- Complaints of "*heart too slow*" (HR < 50 and symptomatic)
- A syncopal episode or severe weakness in patients
- New onset stroke symptoms (< 24 hours old)
- Difficulty breathing (with no obvious non-cardiac cause)
- Cardiac Arrest
- Recent Cocaine or Illicit drug use

Show all ECG's immediately to a physician for an initial interpretation!

- IF 1st ECG within normal limits and chest discomfort remains repeat in 10 minutes
- Please transport patients by wheelchair
- Women and diabetic patients are more likely to present with atypical symptoms
- Elderly patients may have symptoms such as generalized weakness, altered mental status or syncope as their only sign of acute heart attack.

When in doubt, do the 12 Lead ECG!