**Class and Action:** Calcium channel blocker; causes a decrease in systemic vascular resistance with little to no effect on inotropy, and does not cause increase in calcium serum levels

**Indications:** Hypertension crisis

**Contraindications:** Liver failure, or known aortic stenosis

**Side Effects:** Headache, edema, hypotension, nausea, dizziness, rash

**Drug Interactions:** Use caution if pt is on beta blockers, cimetidine can cause increase in nicardipine plasma levels

**Onset, Duration, and Routes:** Onset is 10-20 minutes with a duration of 8 hours. Routes include IV/IO.

**Adult Dose:**
- 5 mg/hr increase by 2.5 mg/hr every fifteen minutes until desired effect is achieved. Max dose of 15 mg/hr

**Peds Dose:**
- Not indicated

**WDM EMS Protocols:**
- B4. Hypertensive Crisis
- B5. Interfacility CVA

**Special Considerations:**