

**Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Treatment Algorithm**  
(Pregnancy up to 12 weeks postpartum)  
Sustained Systolic BP  $\geq$  160 mm Hg or Diastolic BP  $\geq$  110mm Hg

Antihypertensive treatment and magnesium sulfate should be administered simultaneously. If concurrent administration is not possible, antihypertensive treatment should be 1<sup>st</sup> priority.

**Nifedipine PO as Primary Antihypertensive**

Initial dose: nifedipine 10mg PO immediate release

**Repeat BP in 20 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give nifedipine 20mg PO

**Repeat BP in 20 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give nifedipine 20mg PO

**Repeat BP in 20 minutes\***

If SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Convert to labetalol 20mg IV Pathway  
**Emergent Consult:**  
Maternal-fetal medicine  
Anesthesia  
Internal medicine

**\*Labetalol IV as Primary Antihypertensive**

Initial dose 20mg labetalol IV

**Repeat BP in 10 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give 40mg labetalol IV

**Repeat BP in 10 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give 80mg labetalol IV

**Repeat BP in 10 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give hydralazine 10mg IV  
**Convert to hydralazine pathway**

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give hydralazine 10mg  
If BP remains over threshold,  
**Emergent consult:**  
Maternal-fetal medicine  
Anesthesia  
Internal medicine

**\*Hydralazine IV as Primary Antihypertensive**

Initial dose: 5mg hydralazine IV

**Repeat BP in 20 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give hydralazine 10mg IV

**Repeat BP in 20 minutes\***

SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give labetalol 20mg IV  
**Convert to labetalol pathway**

**Repeat BP in 10 minutes\***

If SBP  $\geq$  160 or DBP  $\geq$  110  
Give labetalol 40mg IV  
If BP remains over threshold,  
**Emergent consult:**  
Maternal-fetal medicine  
Anesthesia  
Internal medicine

**\*If patient has another severe range blood pressure < 60 minutes from the last medication, resume the medication algorithm from the last completed step.**

If patient has a severe range blood pressure  $\geq$  60 minutes from the last medication, confirm that it persists > 15 minutes or occurs twice within 60 minutes and start over at the beginning of the first line treatment

Clinicians may consider antihypertensives at 155/105 mm Hg given the association with increased maternal morbidities at this threshold in several studies