Severe Hypertension
Systolic ≥ 160 mm Hg or Diastolic ≥ 110 mm Hg (Persists > 15 minutes)

First Line Agents

IV Antihypertensive Medications

- **IV Labetalol**
  - Give 20 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes, if Severe Range
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes, if Severe Range
  - Give 40 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes, if Severe Range
  - Give 80 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes, if Severe Range
  - Give Hydralazine 10 mg IV over 2 minutes
    - Repeat BP in 10 minutes and again in 20 minutes

- **IV Hydralazine**
  - 5 mg or 10 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes and again in 20 minutes, if Severe range at 20 minutes
  - Give 10 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 and 20 minutes, if Severe range at 20 minutes
  - Give Labetalol 20 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes, if Severe range
  - Give Labetalol 40 mg IV over 2 minutes
  - Repeat BP in 10 minutes, if Severe range

PO Antihypertensive Medications

- **PO Nifedipine**
  - Give 10 mg orally
  - Repeat BP measurement in 20 minutes and record results, if Severe range
  - Give 20 mg orally
  - If BP is below threshold, continue to monitor BP closely
  - Repeat BP measurement in 20 minutes, if Severe range

- **PO Magnesium Sulfate**
  - Magnesium Sulfate 20 grams/500 ml bag
  - Initial: IV Bolus 4-6 grams in 100-150 ml over 20 minutes
  - Maintenance: 1-2 grams per hour IV infusion
  - If Severe range, Call MFM, Internal Medicine, Anesthesia or Critical Care

IV Magnesium Sulfate (seizure prophylaxis)

- Magnesium Sulfate 20 grams/500 ml bag
  - Initial: IV Bolus 4-6 grams in 100-150 ml over 20 minutes
  - Maintenance: 1-2 grams per hour IV infusion
  - If Severe range, Call MFM, Internal Medicine, Anesthesia or Critical Care

No IV Access

1. **Magnesium Sulfate** 10 grams of 50% solution IM (5 grams in each buttock) if no IV access
2. If IV access is not yet obtained in a pregnant or postpartum woman with severe hypertension, administer:
   - 200 mg of labetalol orally
   - 10 mg of nifedipine orally (not for sublingual use)
   - Repeat in 30 minutes if systolic blood pressure remains ≥ 160 or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 110 and intravenous access still unavailable

Second Line Agents:

- Give additional antihypertensive medication per specific order as recommended by specialist.

(Anticonvulsant medications for recurrent seizures or when magnesium is contraindicated):
- Lorazepam (2-4 mg IV x 1, may repeat x 1 after 10-15 minutes)
- Diazepam (5-10 mg IV every 5-10 minutes to maximum dose 30 mg)
- Phenytoin (15-20 mg/kg IV x 1, may repeat 10 mg/kg IV after 20 minutes if no response; avoid with hypotension, may cause cardiac arrhythmias)
- Keppra (500 mg IV or orally, may repeat in 12 hours; dose adjustment needed if renal impairment)
- Antenatal corticosteroids if < 34 weeks of gestation

Adapted from: ACOG District II Maternal safety bundle for severe hypertension in pregnancy.