



Regional Emergency Medical Organization

Office of the Medical Director

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REMAC ADVISORY 2010 – 04

Re: Medication Shortages

Effective Date: Current

This summer EMS has been suffering through a series of medications shortages that have been unprecedented. Most predictions called for these shortages to end early in the summer. This has not happened. The Department of Health Bureau of EMS and the Office of Health Systems Management have issued advisories to assist us in managing this crisis. Because each agency has a slightly different stocking plan, until this point we have assisted on an agency-by-agency issue regarding supply. Some hospitals may have kept original formulary medications for EMS restock.

The following is the latest guidance from the REMAC to the medical directors, agency management, hospital nursing management and pharmacies. Any questions or comments please let REMO know. Our compendium of changes:

Problem: Dextrose D50 50 mL (25 gm) not available

Solution: D10 250 mL (25 gm) administered via slow drip or 50 mL boluses with data gathering for efficacy. If using D10, please participate in data-gathering through REMO.

Change for hospitals: Please supply D10 250mL bags to EMS for restock

Problem: Epi 1:10,000 not available

Solution: Package Epi 1:1,000 1 mL ampule with 10 mL syringe and NS 10 mL for field reconstitution (this is the recommendation of the Association of Health Systems Pharmacists).

Agencies MUST not use Epinephrine 1:1,000 30 mL vials for reconstitution.

Change for hospitals: Please supply Epi 1:1,000 1 mL ampule for restock with NS 10 mL vial in single plastic bag with filter needle and 10 mL syringe IF Epi 1:10,000 not available your institution

Problem: Naloxone 2 mg in 2 ml not available (optimal intranasal administration concentration)

Solution: None. Hold on initiating the BLS Narcan Administration program. Agencies that begin to issue concentrations of other than 1mg/mL should advise providers that it should not be used intranasally.

Problem: Sodium Bicarb 50 mL not available

Solution: None

Problem: Furosemide 10 mg/mL may be in limited supply

Solution: None

Problem: Fentanyl 50 mcg/mL vials may be in short supply

Solution: Use 2 mL ampules, 50 mcg/mL, and notify DOH by memo of the change. Please return to the use of vials when they become available again, because of the identified problems with ampules breaking and spilling.