Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee
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Re: Medication Shortages: Epinephrine and Sodium Bicarbonate

Epinephrine 1 mg / 10 ml (previously known as 1:10,000)

Currently the regional hospitals are facing a shortage of epinephrine 1mg / 10 ml. Until this medication is available again, for restock they will substitute a package containing either a 10 ml saline vial or flush and a vial or ampule of epinephrine 1 mg / 1 ml. The saline is in the package to allow dilution of the epinephrine to an appropriate concentration of 1 mg / 10 ml.

If you do not understand the process for drawing up and diluting the epinephrine correctly it is your responsibility to ask either your supervisor or the staff at the hospital restocking the medication.

Under NO circumstances may epinephrine 1 mg / 1 ml be given intravenously without appropriate dilution.

Sodium Bicarbonate

Sodium Bicarbonate may not be available for restocking from some EMS suppliers and hospitals. There is no available substitution.