



REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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DATE: June 14, 2017

TO: ORANGE COUNTY ALS PROVIDERS
ORANGE COUNTY BASE HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
ORANGE COUNTY BASE HOSPITAL COORDINATORS
ORANGE COUNTY PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM

FROM: SAM J. STRATTON, MD, MPH
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, ORANGE COUNTY EMS

SUBJECT: MEDICATION SHORTAGES

The Food and Drug Administration has released notification of the following nationwide medication shortages:

Atropine injection
Epinephrine preloaded syringes and ampules
Fentanyl injection
Sodium Bicarbonate injection

To address these shortage issues, Orange County ALS Providers are asked to maintain current stocks of medications that cannot be restocked beyond labeled expiration dates and to continue to use that medication up to six months past the expiration date or until supplies of the medication again become available. When expired medication is used, please notify Orange County EMS (sstratton@ochca.com or vsweet@ochca.com) so that patients can be notified and explanation made for the use of an expired medication.

With respect to the shortage of epinephrine, if 1 mg/10 ml preloaded syringes or carpupjects are not obtainable from your medical supplier, please instruct field personnel to dilute 1 mg/1 ml of epinephrine from a vial or ampule in a syringe containing 9 ml of normal saline to form 1 mg epinephrine in 10 ml solution for administration in cardiac arrest as needed.

Orange County EMS will monitor the availability of ALS medications on a regular basis and provide system notification and follow-up.

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