



REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

RICHARD SANCHEZ
DIRECTOR

STEVE THRONSON
DEPUTY AGENCY DIRECTOR
REGULATORY/MEDICAL SERVICES

DENISE FENNESSY
CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
REGULATORY/MEDICAL SERVICES

TAMMI McCONNELL MSN, RN
EMS ADMINISTRATOR

405 W FIFTH STREET, SUITE 301A
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701
TELEPHONE: 714- 834-3500
FAX: 714- 834-3125

DATE: November 2, 2018

TO: ORANGE COUNTY EMS DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SJS', is written over the printed name of Sam J. Stratton.

SUBJECT: DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL®) INJECTABLE SHORTAGE

There is currently a national shortage of diphenhydramine solution for intravenous and intramuscular injection. When supply issues for diphenhydramine will be resolved is not currently known.

EMS providers should continue to use current supplies of diphenhydramine based on standing orders and base hospital direction until current supplies are exhausted. Expired diphenhydramine doses should not be used and rather managed as usual for expired medications.

Orange County EMS is working with state authorities to determine if other available antihistamines similar to diphenhydramine can be added to the State Paramedic Scope of Practice.

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