



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

December 21, 2018

TO: ORANGE COUNTY EMS DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

SUBJECT: ONDANSETRON USE IN PREGNANCY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SJS', is written over the 'FROM' line of the memo.

Recent research published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* has shown a small increased risk for oral clefts in children born of mothers exposed to ondansetron (Huybrechts K, et al. JAMA. 2018;320(23):2429-2437).

Considering this research finding, use in the field by EMS providers of ondansetron (Zofran®) for control of nausea or vomiting in women who may or are known to be pregnant is to be avoided.

The attached revised standing order (SO-M-60) reflects this system change. Other standing orders including ondansetron will be updated similarly.

SJS/#3395



NAUSEA-VOMITING - ADULT/ADOLESCENT

ALS STANDING ORDERS:

1. If signs of dehydration or poor perfusion and lungs clear to auscultation (no evidence CHF):
 - ▶ *Establish IV access and give 250 mL Normal Saline bolus, may repeat up to maximum 1 liter to maintain adequate perfusion.*

3. For continuous nausea or vomiting, and not known or suspected to be pregnant¹, administer:
 - ▶ *Ondansetron (Zofran™) 8 mg (two 4 mg ODT tablets) to dissolve orally on inside of cheek as tolerated;*
OR,
4 mg IV, may repeat 4 mg IV once after approximately 3 minutes for continued or recurrent nausea or vomiting.
3. Maintain airway, suction as necessary.
4. Transport to nearest appropriate ERC (ALS escort if fluids or medication required).

Note # 1: Ondanestron may have an association with oral clefts if administered in the first trimester (Huybrechts K, et al. JAMA. 2018;320(23):2429-2437).

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Phatons".

Reviewed: 5/2016; 12/2018
Release Date: 12/21/2018
Final Implementation Date: 4/01/2019