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DATE: May 31, 2019

TO: HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT ALS PROVIDERS
ORANGE COUNTY BASE HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
ORANGE COUNTY BASE HOSPITAL COORDINATORS

FROM: CARL H. SCHULTZ, MD *CHS*
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, ORANGE COUNTY EMS

SUBJECT: SHORTAGE OF FENTANYL 0.05 MG/ML, 2 ML VIALS

There is currently a shortage of fentanyl 0.05 mg/mL, 2 mL vials for intravenous and intramuscular injection. When supply issues for this preparation of fentanyl will be resolved is not currently known. Huntington Beach Fire Department ALS providers are about to exhaust their current supply.

Huntington Beach Fire Department ALS providers should continue to use current supplies of fentanyl based on standing orders and base hospital direction until current supplies are exhausted. Once this occurs, Huntington Beach Fire paramedics can then use expired fentanyl doses for up to 3 months past their expiration dates. Huntington Beach Fire Department ALS Providers are asked to maintain current stocks of fentanyl beyond labeled expiration and continue to use that fentanyl until supplies of the medication again become available.

If a Huntington Beach Fire ALS providers wish to use expired fentanyl, they must inform the patient the drug is safe but expired before administration, giving the patient the option to refuse. After administering fentanyl, the paramedic must inform the Orange County EMS medical director by e-mail within 24 hours of the patient's name and incident number that received the fentanyl dose.

Orange County EMS will monitor the availability of fentanyl 0.05mg/mL, 2 mL vials and provide notification when it is again generally available for resupply.

CHS:chs#3489