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**REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**MEMO**

**DATE:** May 23, 2019

**TO:** BASE HOSPITALS (BHC AND BHP)  
EMERGENCY RECEIVING CENTERS  
AMBULANCE COMPANIES  
ERC MEDICAL DIRECTORS  
FIRE EMS COORDINATORS

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

**SUBJECT:** SUSPENSION OF CARDIOVASCULAR RECEIVING CENTER  
DESIGNATION FOR WEST ANAHEIM MEDICAL CENTER

Effective immediately, the Orange County EMS Agency has suspended the designation of West Anaheim Medical Center as a Cardiovascular Receiving Center (CVRC).

Patients with EKG changes consistent with acute myocardial infarction (STEMI) as well as cardiac arrest patients achieving return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) will not be directed by a base hospital to West Anaheim Medical Center.

CHS:chs#3486



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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



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June 11, 2019

**To: EMS Provider Agencies  
EMS ePCR Software Vendors**

**From: Laurent Repass, EMS Information Systems Chief, Emergency Medical Services**

**Subject: OC-MEDS Data Dictionary Implementation – System Change Notification**

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On June 1, 2019, the update to OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary was finalized. The revised data dictionary (v1.3) includes new data elements and coding additions and changes to ensure that our systems continue to meet local needs and remain compliant with Federal and State EMS data standards. The OC-MEDS Data Dictionary and all supporting documents (including a change log) are posted on the OCEMS website in the OC-MEDS Section at:

[http://healthdisasteroc.org/ems/ocmed/oc\\_meds\\_data\\_dictionary](http://healthdisasteroc.org/ems/ocmed/oc_meds_data_dictionary)

OCEMS will implement changes documented in the change log to the OC-MEDS NEMSIS v3 (Elite) system during a two (2) hour update window scheduled on **Tuesday, June 25, 2019 between 5:00am and 7:00am**. Changes will include addition of new data elements, field value coding updates, and any modifications to affected validation rules.

**OC-MEDS v3 (Elite) ePCR users:**

Every effort will be made to minimize any impacts to field operations; however, it is possible that OC-MEDS v3 ePCR users may notice differences and intermittent inconsistencies with their run form templates and validation rules during and immediately after the update window. Users are encouraged to sync their devices after the update window to ensure that all updates are available.

**Third Party ePCR Software Vendors:**

Third party ePCR software vendors should complete the updates to their systems as soon as possible pursuant to OCEMS Policy 300.30 (IV,E,ii,c).

Questions regarding the coding update should be directed to OC-MEDS Support at:  
[oc-meds@ochca.com](mailto:oc-meds@ochca.com).



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**REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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DATE: June 14, 2019

TO: ORANGE COUNTY ALS PROVIDERS  
ORANGE COUNTY IFT 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 SODIUM BICARBONATE

There is currently a shortage of sodium bicarbonate for intravenous injection. It is unknown when supply issues for this drug will be resolved.

For providers experiencing difficulty in re-ordering supplies of sodium bicarbonate, they should continue to use unexpired inventory until these current supplies are exhausted. Once this occurs, providers can then use expired sodium bicarbonate for up to 6 months past its expiration date or until supplies of the medication again become available.

If providers wish to use expired sodium bicarbonate, they must inform the patient (if possible) the drug is safe but expired before administration, giving the patient the option to refuse. After administering sodium bicarbonate, the paramedic must inform Orange County EMS by e-mail ([cschultz@ochca.com](mailto:cschultz@ochca.com) or [vsweet@ochca.com](mailto:vsweet@ochca.com)) within 24 hours of the patient's name and incident number so that use of the expired drug can be recorded.

Orange County EMS will monitor the availability of sodium bicarbonate and provide notification when it is again generally available for resupply.

CHS:em#3500