



Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties

Virginia Hastings, Executive Director

Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., Medical Director

DATE: June 24, 2010

TO: ALS Providers

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi, MD
ICEMA Medical Director

Virginia Hastings
ICEMA Executive Director

SUBJECT: **SHORTAGE OF DEXTROSE AND EPINEPHRINE**

The FDA and the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) have reported a shortage of medications due to a pharmaceutical company discontinuing production of medication in emergency syringes. The medications that potentially affect the ICEMA region are dextrose and epinephrine. The following ICEMA protocol variances are authorized for provider agencies that maybe impacted by this shortage.

Altered Level of Consciousness protocol #11080 with low blood sugar:

If patients are awake and able to protect their own airway, use oral glucose paste for treatment of hypoglycemia. In patients at risk of aspiration and unable to protect their airway Glucagon 1 mg SC, IM or intranasal maybe used. If IV administration is necessary and D50W is not available, D25W may be administered to adult patients IV for a maximum single dose of 25 grams of Dextrose and repeated once prior to contact supplies permitting (e.g. D25W preload is typically 2.5g Dextrose in 10ml x 10 preloads = 25g Dextrose).

Patients meeting protocols that require Epinephrine 1:10,000:

Draw up Epinephrine 1:1,000 (1mg/mL) in a 10 mL syringe and dilute by drawing up 9mL of Normal Saline for a 10 mL solution yielding Epinephrine 1:10,000 (1mg in 10mL). This solution presents the same fluid volume and concentration of Epinephrine as standard 1:10,000 preloads. Patient dosing using this solution remains the same as 1:10,000 dosages currently prescribed in protocol.

Paramedics should make immediate base station contact for online medical direction if there are any uncertainties with medication calculations, administration or patient dosing. Providers are cautioned about the increased risk of medication errors with the above variances and are advised to provide adequate training and education to their EMS personal prior to changing to any products permitted under the above variances.

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If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Shimshy at (909) 388-5816 or at SShimshy@cao.sbcounty.gov.

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