



Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties

*Tom Lynch, EMS Administrator
Reza Vaezazizi, MD, Medical Director*

DATE: November 24, 2014

TO: EMS Providers - ALS, LALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft
Hospital ED Directors, Nurse Managers, and PLNs

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi, MD 
Medical Director

SUBJECT: TRANSITION FROM MORPHINE TO FENTANYL

The Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended that EMS providers transition from Morphine Sulfate to Fentanyl throughout the ICEMA region. Fentanyl is generally more effective, has fewer side effects, is easier to dose and provides more reliable pain control.

ICEMA will allow a transition period to begin December 1, 2014, through June 1, 2015. This will allow EMS providers to use as much of their current supplies of Morphine as possible prior to the transition date. For the safety of patients and to reduce the risk of medication errors, ICEMA is requiring the following:

- EMS providers must carry either Morphine or Fentanyl but not both.
- EMS providers must complete the transition to Fentanyl by June 1, 2015.
- EMS providers must notify ICEMA when they have transitioned to Fentanyl.
- EMS providers must provide sufficient training to their personnel on ICEMA Reference #7040 - Medication Standard Orders and all treatment protocols containing Fentanyl.
- EMS providers must include Fentanyl usage as part of each EMS provider's QI process.

If you have any questions, please contact Sherri Shimshy, RN, EMS Nurse Specialist, at (909) 388-5816 or via e-mail at Sherri.Shimshy@cao.sbcounty.gov.

RV/SS/jlm

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