



McLean County Area EMS System

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MEMORANDUM

To: Transporting Agencies

From: Dylan Ferguson, Paramedic, B.S., L.I.
Director

Date: 05/17/2016

Subject: **BLS Intramuscular Injections**

A concern expressed by many has been the rising cost of the Epinephrine Auto injectors. At nearly \$500.00 for a two pack they have placed an undue strain on many of our BLS agencies. In response to those concerns we have been working with the Illinois Department of Public Health and our local legislators to forge a solution.

I am happy to announce that a solution has been crafted and approved. IDPH has amended the scope of practice to allow for intramuscular injections of both Epinephrine and Glucagon at the BLS level. Here at the EMS System Office we have been preparing for this decision for quite a while now.

We have already submitted revised protocols and a training plan to the state for final review and approval. Once final approval occurs we will begin rolling out the IM injection training to those agencies that are interested.

For those agencies that do not feel comfortable making the switch away from auto injectors we are not going to force that change. We want as much as possible for agencies to be comfortable with the interventions that they perform. Training will be implemented through a variety of modalities, including hands on practice.

Once every provider at the EMT-Basic level on the agencies roster has completed the required training a new prescription will be issued to the agency authorizing the medication and supplies needed to carry out this new intervention.

Until that process occurs, and the new supplies have been received agencies are required to continue to carry the system designated amount of auto injectors. Furthermore, at this time due to the potential for medication errors the system will still require BLS agencies to carry one pediatric auto injector for use on pediatric patients.

In addition when IM injections have been implemented BLS agencies will also be able to give glucagon intramuscularly. The dosage will change to one (1) mg when giving an injection. As a result of this change



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the supply sheets will be updated and BLS agencies will be required to carry only 1 mg of glucagon as opposed to the current 2 resulting in additional budgetary savings. Naloxone will continue to be given intranasally.

I am excited at this opportunity to continue to expand the BLS scope of practice, and at the opportunity for the McLean County Area EMS system to remain on the cutting edge of pre-hospital care at all of its levels.

This is a process that will take some time to implement correctly. I ask you for continued patience a little while longer as we are moving as swiftly as we can to implement this safe, cost effective, and common sense solution. If you have any questions please contact us in the office.