



McLean County Area EMS System

1609 Northbrook Ste 8
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: (309) 827-4348
Fax: (309) 808-4325

MEMORANDUM

To: ILS/ALS Agencies

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

Date: June 6, 2017

Subject: Medication Shortages

We have received reports from both Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, and OSF St. Joseph Medical Center that there is a temporary nationwide shortage of some emergency medications including the following:

- Calcium Chloride
- 50% Dextrose
- 1:10,000 Epinephrine
- Sodium Bicarbonate

Please be aware that due to the shortage you may receive a different concentration or packaging instead of the normal pre-filled syringes. It is possible that the hospital pharmacies will reach a point where they may be unable to replace certain medications.

For agencies that have reserve ambulances, or ambulances that do not operate in front line status at the discretion of the agency these medications can be pulled from those units to stock front line units.

I have also attached a memo from May 2012 providing instructions on how to mix 1:10,000 Epinephrine from the 30 ml multi dose vial.

In terms of the potential shortage of 50% dextrose, bags of 10% Dextrose may be procured if they are available. Administer a 100-200 ml of 10% Dextrose via an IV drip in place of 50% Dextrose if it is not available. Medication replacement forms have been updated to allow for this substitution. The most up to date version is attached to this email, and the website will be updated with the most current forms.

Please note that the 10% Dextrose is only to be utilized in the event the 50% dextrose is unavailable.

Unfortunately, at this point there are no readily available alternatives for the sodium bicarbonate or the calcium chloride.



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These measures are to be used only if a medication is not available on the unit. In the event that Sodium Bicarb or Calcium Chloride are unavailable and are called for in a protocol, skip to the next available step in the protocol.

The hope is that these medication shortages will begin to abate in late-July to mid-August and that these measures will only be required temporarily.

I would advise providers to begin keeping in a secure location these medications that expire on the off chance that the Food and Drug Administration authorize extension of expiration dates for these medications. However, at this point no medications that have become expired are allowed for use in patient care.

If you have any questions or experience difficulties related to the medication shortage please let us know in the office.