



McLean County Area EMS System

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MEMORANDUM

To: ILS/ALS Agencies

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

Date: 01/25/2018

Subject: Valium Shortage

As the shortage of Diazepam (Valium) continues to linger, the EMS System wanted to put out some guidance, and some suggestions on how to extend the limited supply that is currently on ILS and ALS system vehicles.

The current adult protocol calls for either using Ativan or Valium for adult seizure patients. The EMS System strongly suggests the utilization of Ativan as the first line drug for adult seizure control. With such a short supply of Valium, it should be reserved for pediatric seizures.

To that end on an interim basis until the Valium shortage abates providers can utilize Versed as a second option for adult seizures. The dosing will be 2 mg IV every 5 minutes as needed for a max dose of 10 mg. If you are unable to establish an IV Versed may be given 5 mg IM, and repeated once after 15 minutes for a total of 10 mg.

Valium should still be the primary medication for pediatric seizures.

Furthermore, agencies which have equipped ILS/ALS reserve apparatus are encouraged to try and keep as close to the par level on front line apparatus by taking supplies from reserve apparatus as needed. Please ensure that this is documented on your narcotic control logs. If you do not have a medication available or if a patient has an allergy to a medication, then please skip to the next available option.

So to summarize

Adult Seizures

Option 1: Ativan 2mg IV or 4mg IN

Option 2: Versed 2mg IV or 5mg IM

Option 3 (Last Resort): Valium 5 mg IV or 10mg IN

Pediatric Seizures

Option 1: Valium 0.2 mg/kg IV/IO (Refer to protocol for max dose)

Option 2: Valium 0.5 mg/kg Rectal (Refer to protocol for max dose)

Option 3: Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg (Refer to protocol for max does)

We realize that medication shortages are problematic. This guidance is being put out to present options to extend the life of our supply as much as possible. To the best of our knowledge neither ABMC or SJMC can replace Valium at this time, and we do not have an estimate as to when this particular shortage will abate. Please let us know if you have any questions.

****This Guidance is in Effect Until it is Revoked****