



County of San Diego

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ACTIVATED CHARCOAL 50 GM SHORTAGES – TEMPORARY EXEMPTION GRANTED

The San Diego County EMS Office is aware that the activated charcoal 50 gm oral suspension preparations carried by many of our EMS providers are in shortage. In addition, some manufacturers have indicated that the activated charcoal 50 gm preparation is being discontinued, further constraining available supply.

I grant a temporary exemption through October 31, 2023, for activated charcoal 50 Gm for paramedic ambulance inventory. The inventories listed in County of San Diego EMS Policies [S-103](#) are temporarily modified, to permit EMS agencies to substitute activated charcoal 25 gm oral suspension preparations in place of the 50 gm containers.

In addition, I grant authorization to treat adult patients with the listed ingestions with activated charcoal 25 gm in place activated charcoal 50 gm, on standing order ([County EMS Protocol S-134](#)). Patients may receive two 25 gm containers as tolerated, up to the 50 gm maximum dosage.

Pediatric patients with listed ingestions shall be treated according to the pediatric drug chart, as recommended by the Poison Center ([County EMS Protocol S-165](#)).

Please notify County EMS via EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov if any additional changes occur to the ability to obtain activated charcoal.

Thank you for your assistance in continuing to provide outstanding care to our patients.

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
San Diego County Fire

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator