February 28, 2022

DEXTROSE 50% SHORTAGES – TEMPORARY EXEMPTION GRANTED

The San Diego County EMS Office is aware that injectable dextrose 50% vials are in shortage and continue to be on backorder. A large percentage of current stock will expire in March 2022.

I grant a temporary exemption through July 31, 2022, of the minimum par levels for dextrose 50% for ALS ambulances, first responder vehicles and ALS wildland kits. The minimum inventories listed in County of San Diego EMS Policies S-103, P-806, and P-807 are temporarily modified, as listed:

- ALS ambulances may temporarily carry 1 dextrose 50% vial, a decrease from 2
- ALS first responder units may temporarily carry zero dextrose 50% vials, a decrease from 1
- Wildland ALS kits may temporarily carry zero dextrose 50% vials, a decrease from 1

In addition, I grant authorization to treat adult patients with hypoglycemia unresponsive to oral glucose agents or accompanied by altered level of consciousness with the equivalent dose of dextrose 10% in place of dextrose 50%, on standing order (County EMS Protocol S-123).

Please notify County EMS via EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov when the dextrose 50% backorder resolves and a return to minimum replaceable medication par level occurs. We would welcome you to recontact our office to request an extension to this time-limited exemption should the shortage last longer than anticipated.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jeannie Collins
Director
San Diego County EMS Office
San Diego County Fire

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator