



# County of San Diego

JEFF COLLINS  
DIRECTOR  
(858) 974-5924  
Fax (858) 467-9662

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 250, San Diego, CA 92123-1239  
[www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com)

ANDREW (ANDY) PARR  
EMS ADMINISTRATOR  
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations  
(619) 285-6429

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@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:EMSNotifications@sdcountry.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,

San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office  
San Diego County Fire

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator