



County of San Diego

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KETAMINE SHORTAGES – TEMPORARY EXEMPTION GRANTED

The San Diego County EMS Office is aware of national shortages of ketamine at the 50 mg/1 mL concentration. As a reminder, the [County's strategy to mitigate medication shortages includes opioid and non-opioid analgesia](#), as well as non-pharmacologic pain management options.

I grant a temporary exemption through December 31, 2023, of the minimum par levels for ketamine 50 mg/1 mL for ALS ambulances and ALS first responder vehicles. The minimum inventories listed in County of San Diego EMS Policies [S-103](#) and [P-806](#) are temporarily modified, as listed below:

- ALS First Responders may temporarily carry zero ketamine vials, a decrease from 1
- ALS Ambulances may temporarily carry zero ketamine vials, a decrease from 2

Please notify County EMS via EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov when the 50 mg/1 mL ketamine concentration becomes available and a return to required par levels occur. We 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristi Koenig".

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