August 9, 2022

CRITICAL EMS PHARMACEUTICAL SHORTAGES
UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR EMS PERSONNEL

The San Diego County EMS Office is aware of periodic shortages of essential prehospital pharmaceuticals and companion delivery equipment. Informed by consultation with the EMS community, this memo authorizes extensions of the following pharmaceutical exemptions to **January 31, 2023**:

- Cardiac and push-dose epinephrine superscript 1 guidance **February 28, 2022**
- Dextrose 50% shortages-temporary exemption **February 28, 2022**
- Mitigation strategies **March 29, 2022**
- Use of expired medications **April 7, 2022**
- New options for push-dose epinephrine preparation **April 7, 2022**

In addition, intranasal glucagon is authorized as an option through **January 31, 2023**, as per the **August 9, 2022 memo**.

Agencies are requested to anticipate pharmaceutical shortages and make early contact with the EMS Office via EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov to explore mitigation strategies **before** the situation becomes critical.

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

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1 Please carefully follow the epinephrine administration guidelines to minimize the risk of medication errors.
September 22, 2022
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cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator