



TO: EMS System Participants

FROM: Humberto Ochoa MD, EMS Medical Director *HRO*

DATE: December 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Midazolam Shortage

Both paramedic services and hospitals may experience midazolam shortages due to national shortages. Alternative medications such as diazepam and lorazepam, neither of which is currently approved for paramedic use in Riverside County, are also in short supply.

To mitigate this issue please follow these steps:

1. Paramedic services that restock controlled substances through the base hospitals must keep appropriate documentation of each instance in which they are unable to restock midazolam, at minimum: An Incident Report with an attached hard copy of the PCR/ePCR.
2. Paramedic services experiencing supply issues must strategically redistribute their stock on hand (reserve vehicle and Fireline Paramedic inventory) while maintaining all customary and required tracking of controlled substances.
3. As an emergency measure, services may use any current stock of midazolam for up to one year after the listed expiration date. We will return to normal expiration when supplies become available.
4. During field operations, paramedics experiencing supply issues must:
 - a. Notify supervision, document, and remain in service when unable to restock midazolam.
 - b. Exercise caution when making calculations due to the various concentrations of midazolam that may be encountered due to variations in the supply chain.
 - c. Anticipate the need and request that additional resources be dispatched as required to ensure that midazolam is available when clinically indicated.
 - d. Contact a single REMSA authorized base hospital for medical direction when unable to provide clinically indicated midazolam, and document the occurrence.