DEFINITION
Nationally recognized supply limitation:
Nationally recognized supply limitations are determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the status of any applicable medication will be listed as "Currently in Shortage" in their electronic portal (found here: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/default.cfm). Before submitting a waiver request, their website should be referenced; waivers to operate outside of REMSA policy will not be approved if the medication in question is not listed.

PURPOSE
To permit and regulate the use of alternative medications and/or concentrations when the REMSA authorized “Standard” medications and/or concentrations cannot be obtained due to nationally recognized supply limitations.

AUTHORITY
California Health and Safety Code - Division 2.5: Emergency Medical Services [1797. - 1799.207.]

Procedure
If REMSA-approved standard medications and/or concentrations (as documented on pages 16 – 18 of REMSA Policy #3303 (Drug and Equipment List)) cannot be obtained due to nationally recognized supply limitations and an alternative medication and/or concentration must be used, then:

1. REMSA must be notified by utilizing the REMSA Medication Waiver form, found here: https://forms.office.com/g/ZRPuzthLhM.
   a. Reliance on the inventory of only one (1) vendor is not a legitimate reason for approval to operate outside of compliance. Live links must be included in the submitted waiver for verification purposes.

2. Once verified and approved, agencies / organizations may then obtain the needed medication(s) in an alternative concentration and/or volume, as outlined in the REMSA policy #4102 (“Alternative Medications / Dosages”).

3. Should additional education regarding storage, handling, pre-administration mixing, proper administration techniques, side effects, medication disposal, etc. be required, it must be approved by the REMSA Medical Director prior to deployment.

4. As an additional safety measure, agencies / organizations should consider placing a high-visibility red sticker on each alternative medication vial and/or ampule.

5. Internal agency / organization policy must be followed for alternative medication distribution, notification of staff, and field calculation of volumes.

6. 100% continuous quality improvement (CQI) review of each use of an alternative medication is expected.

7. Notification of each use of an alternative medication must be reported to REMSA within seventy-two (72) hours, using the form found here: https://forms.office.com/g/ACStXc1FnA.
   a. Epinephrine diluted and administered at the point of care must be reports using this form: https://forms.office.com/g/2iYVT4Jf3Y