



**MEDICATION SHORTAGES
Operational Policy**

POLICY:

This document contains an operational policy for handling periods of severe medication shortages that may alter EMS practice or require the use of medications which are of a different dosage/volume concentration than listed in the Standards of Care Guidelines, use medications that are expired or to seek alternative medications.

IDENTIFICATION OF MEDICATION SHORTAGE

When a potential shortage is identified, the EMS Liaison should follow Option A recommendations. If drug shortages continue, the EMS Liaison will notify OEM to implement Option B—advanced notice as able.

ORDER OF OPTIONS WHEN HANDLING A MEDICATION SHORTAGE ISSUE (LISTED IN ORDER OF USE)

Option A: Per fire department and EMS Liaison authority

1. Identify and distribute alternate supply of medication with the same dosage/volume concentration (e.g. mg/ml)
2. Identify and distribute compounded medication with the same dosage/volume concentration from a licensed supplier and follow any shelf-life guidelines outlined by the supplier
3. Identify and distribute multi-dose vials of same dosage/volume concentration (note multi-dose is not multi-patient; the vial should only be used on one patient)

Option B: Per EMS Medical Director authority

4. Adjust dose and frequency of medication use listed in the Standards of Care Clinical Guidelines
5. Allow the use of expired medication as guided by the Food and Drug Administration (process detailed below)
6. Provide guidelines and Just-In-Time training with the use of medications requiring dilution from non-standardized concentrations
7. Determine alternative medication (as available and appropriate)

PROCESS TO REQUEST MEDICATION EXPIRATION EXTENSION:

1. An EMS agency may proceed to Option B after a good faith and reasonable attempt to obtain medication falling under Option A above.
2. Notify the Office of Emergency Management and the EMS Medical Director of the pending drug shortage via this form: [MEDICATION EXPIRATION EXTENSION REQUEST](#)
3. EMS Medical Director will approve use of section B alternatives, ensure Just-In-Time training, create a Numbered Notice, and communication with EMS Liaisons and the EMS System.

Notes:

- EMS Liaisons must inform Office of Emergency Management once original supplies become available, at which point the above alternative medication options will be terminated.