



To: All ECMC EMS Agencies

From: Scott Wander, EMS Director

Cc: Anthony J. Billittier, IV, MD – System Medical Director
ECMC EMS Service Medical Directors
Craig Cooley, MD – WREMAC Chairman

Re: Medication Shortages

Date: June 2, 2010

I have recently learned that EMS agencies have become unable to order Epinephrine 1:10,000 and Dextrose 50% as an emergency “prefilled” syringe. This shortage is widespread among major EMS supply pharmacies – Moore Medical, Bound Tree, PMI, ECMC, etc.

I have reached out to Jim Menefee, ECMC’s Pharmacy Store Clerk, and have learned that all pharmaceuticals supplied as an emergency prefilled syringe will experience shortages “on and off for the foreseeable future”. As shortages occur, it will be necessary for EMS agencies to switch from emergency prefilled syringes to another form of drug packaging such as a vial or ampule. **Please note that the drug concentration may be different in the alternative packaging and may require dilution by the EMS provider prior to administration!**

Should your EMS agency need to order any drug in a form different than your usual supply form (i.e., vial vs. prefilled syringe), **please ensure that all advanced providers receive appropriate notice and training.**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Additionally, please keep us posted should you discover that supplies become available or unavailable to order. We can be reached by phone: (716) 898-3600 or e-mail: OPC@ecmc.edu