



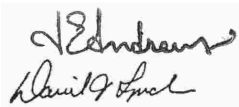
Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T #03-2018 - **REVISED**

TO: All Fresno/Kings/Madera/Tulare EMS Providers, Hospitals, First Responder Agencies, and Interested Parties

FROM: Jim Andrews, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Daniel J. Lynch, Director 

DATE: July 24, 2018 (Originally Released March 15, 2018)

SUBJECT: Fentanyl Administration

The EMS Agency has been notified by provider agencies of increasing challenges in the procurement of Fentanyl. This appears to be a widespread problem, and it is unknown when the shortage of Fentanyl will end. Because of this, the EMS Agency is implementing a temporary limit in the use of Fentanyl to ensure that it will be available to the patients that meet the criteria listed below.

Effective immediately, any patient requiring Fentanyl will need Base Hospital Physician approval prior to the administration of Fentanyl, except for severe burn patients, patients who present with ischemic coronary chest discomfort or patients with long bone (humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia or fibula) fractures.

The EMS Agency is requesting the Base Hospital Physicians to be involved in the decision when to administered Fentanyl by prehospital personnel. This decision is not meant to withhold treatment but rather to ensure that the most appropriate patients get Fentanyl while trying to protect the available inventory.

Once this medication shortage has been resolved, the EMS Agency will rescind this directive.

If you have any questions, please contact Dale Dotson, EMS Coordinator, at (559) 600-3387.

JA:DJL:rb