



Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County  
Department of Public Health

### SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T #05-2022

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: March 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Dextrose (D50 and D10) Shortage

Two handwritten signatures in black ink are visible. The top signature appears to be 'J. Andrews' and the bottom one appears to be 'Daniel J. Lynch'.

The EMS Agency was notified by several providers that Dextrose is on back order by the manufacturer. It is uncertain when it will become available.

Since Dextrose is frequently used in the prehospital setting, the EMS Agency must prepare for the EMS providers inability to restock these medications once they have been used. EMS providers are requested to attempt to evenly disperse the Dextrose in their vehicles that are current, even if the amount on each vehicle falls below the County minimum. In instances where there is extreme shortage, the provider agencies should assure the primary response vehicles have what is available, even if expired. If a provider agency is not experiencing a Dextrose shortage, normal policies, procedures, and protocols are to be followed.

Due to the frequency of use for Dextrose (D50 and D10), the EMS Agency is allowing EMS personnel to consider oral glucose in all patients, no matter what the GCS. This can be applied by rubbing it on the inside of the patient's cheeks. If no response from the oral glucose, then D50 or D10 will need to be administered. When D50 and/or D10 has been exhausted from the inventory, Glucagon should be considered under the following protocols:

- EMS Policy #530.18 – Paramedic Treatment Protocols – Altered Mental Status, Possible Stroke, and Syncope
- EMS Policy #530.19 – Paramedic Treatment Protocols – Seizures

The EMS Agency expects that with the national shortage of D50, D10, or any glucose products, ambulance providers will exhaust their inventory within the next few weeks. Once the current D50 and/or D10 has been exhausted from the inventory and is unavailable to the paramedic, the specific protocols should continue to be followed with the exception of D50 or D10.

The Local Emergency Medical Services Agency for Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties  
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The Base Hospital should be contacted in these instances.

This is a temporary arrangement, and this special memo will be rescinded once Dextrose becomes available.

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

JA:DJL:mp:jy