

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

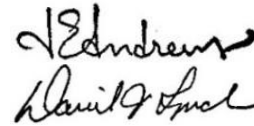
FILE #: F/K/M/T #02-2024

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

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

DATE: January 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Multi-dose albuterol shortage



The EMS Agency has been notified of an ongoing multi-dose albuterol shortage. Due to this persistent shortage and the clinical importance of this medication, we are asking that provider agencies adjust their patient care practices. EMS providers are requested to attempt to evenly disperse the albuterol in their vehicles even if the amount on each vehicle falls below the County minimum. In instances where there is an extreme shortage, provider agencies should assure the primary response vehicles have what is available, even if expired. If a provider agency is not experiencing a multi-dose albuterol shortage, normal policies, procedures, and protocols are to be followed.

Due to the multi-dose albuterol shortage, the EMS Agency is also authorizing the use of nebulized levalbuterol as a substitute for nebulized albuterol administration in the following protocols:

- EMS Policy #530.14 – Shortness of Breath with Bronchospasm (Including COPD and Asthma)
- EMS Policy #530.22 – Allergic Reaction and Anaphylactic Shock
- EMS Policy #530.38 – Pediatric Respiratory Distress (Epiglottitis, Asthma, Bronchiolitis, Croup)

Levalbuterol Dosing:

- Adults and Pediatrics 1.25 mg/3 mL via nebulizer

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

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