

Drug administration – 7 rights

Several **recent drug errors** have demonstrated a gap in execution of System procedure.

1. Wrong drug given (non-controlled drug given when controlled substance was indicated)
2. Wrong dose of ketamine given
3. IV drip containing norepinephrine (with norepinephrine vial taped to bag) was temporarily run WO by receiving hospital because nurse did not see expected IV label on IV bag and tubing.

How could each of these have been prevented?

7 RIGHTS of medication administration - RIGHT	
Patient:	Confirm absence of allergy
Drug	✓ package/drug container for name, concentration, integrity, expiration date. Verify sterility of parenteral medication. Prepare dose; controlled substances, IV inpressors; and high risk meds (peds dosing/others per protocol) require independent cross-check with qualified practitioner before giving.
Dose	
Timing of administration: See drug profile or individual SOP	
Route & site: See above	
Reason: Must be indicated and not contraindicated for patient	
Documentation: Must note drug, dose, route; time of administration, and patient response for each individual dose	

Sheets of norepinephrine drip labels were created when drug was distributed in 2016. *Do you have them?*

NOREPINEPHRINE ¶ 4mg·in·1000mL ¶ (4·mcg/mL)¶
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No unlabeled syringe should ever be used to draw up meds and then handed to another PM to give.



Check expiration dates!

- Ensure there is a robust process for checking for expired supplies with daily ambulance inventories
- No patient care supplies or products should be used past their expiration (manufacturer's or expiration upon opening) unless specifically approved in advance by the EMS MD.
- Don't overstock!
- Exchange in a timely manner per System policy.

We are aware that many **peds i-gels** are expiring in early 2020 and are taking steps with the vendor to have these items replaced prior to expiration.

Storage and handling of Microdot strips

- Store the strips in their original vial in a cool, dry place between 50° and 86° F (10°-30° C). Keep away from sunlight and heat, do not refrigerate or freeze.
- When you take a strip from the vial, close the cap immediately. Use the strip immediately.
- Do not use Microdot® Test Strips >90 days after the vial is first opened. **Write the words, "Discard date" on the vial and note a date 90 days from when strips were first opened.**
- Also check the manufacturer's expiration date on the vial. In the case of a reserve vehicle where the strips have been unopened, the strips may expire from non-use. If the expiration or discard date has passed, do not use the strips.
- Always code the meter for each new vial of strips according to the user manual.

