

**Policy Title:** **DRUG REPLACEMENT:**  
Soon to expire, outdated, or damaged

**No.** D - 2

**Board Approval:** 3/17/05

**Effective:** 8/1/23

**Supersedes:** 5/1/05

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**I. POLICY**

EMS personnel shall be responsible for checking their drugs and solutions on a daily basis to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of each in accordance with the System Drug and Supply List, that the packaging is System appropriate, intact, and that they are well within their expiration dates.

**II. PROCEDURE**

- A. Any EMS drugs/solutions that are found to be within 5 days of expiration, outdated, damaged, tampered with, or having broken seals shall be removed immediately from the EMS vehicle and brought to the assigned System hospital for exchange.
- B. They may be taken directly to the pharmacy, placed in a designated drug return container in the E.D. for replacement, or exchanged per the individual hospital's protocol.
- C. They are never to be returned to the EMS exchange supplies. If placed back into EMS supplies, other units would foreseeably replace their stock with expired or defective drugs.
- D. Replacements may be obtained from the pharmacy, EMS Pyxis, or per the individual hospital's protocols.
- E. EMS personnel are not to resupply their drugs from ED inventories. The ED may have drugs/solutions/supplies with a different manufacturer, dose, and/or concentration than those approved for use on EMS vehicles.
- F. All drugs and solutions shall be checked for compliance with EMS specifications before being placed into service. The NWC EMSS Drug and Supply List shall serve as the reference for approved items.
- G. Due to the instability of nitroglycerin after exposure to air, each bottle of 25 tabs is to be given to the attending ED RN to remain with the patient. Replacement should be obtained from the ED EMS stock. DO NOT open these bottles until patient care requires.

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