



Northwest Community EMS System

Northwest Community Hospital
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Date: March 15, 2012

System Memo: # 338

To: All System Members; Linda Reimel

From: John M. Ortinau, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director

RE: **Outdated drug exchange**

Many of our System hospitals now have enough of some of the drugs impacted by recent shortages to exchange outdated doses for drugs that are within their expiration dates. In our ongoing efforts to balance risk vs. benefits to our patients, **please do the following:**

- Check all drugs on ambulances and MedEngines for expiration dates.
- Inform your assigned hospital EMS Coordinator regarding the drug names and number of expired doses that will need to be exchanged.
- Work with your assigned hospital EMSC to exchange expired stock as soon as possible at least to minimum levels specified in previous System memos.
- If exchange supplies are sufficient, return to normal inventory levels as able.

Hospitals are encouraged to save out dated drugs for emergency exchange in case the System Crisis Response policy needs to be activated again in the near future.