



**NORTHWEST
COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES
SYSTEM**

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Post for all EMT-Ps/PHRNs/
ECRNs; OLMC physicians

Date: March 4, 2020

System Memo: # 384

To: All System members

URGENT PRACTICE UPDATE

From: Mathew T. Jordan, MD, FACEP; EMS Medical Director

RE: **Approved Drug Substitutions due to shortages**

Some hospitals are beginning to experience shortages of several EMS drugs.

Business as usual may be impossible if you cannot be exchanged with the front-line drug.

I am implementing the **Emergency Drug Alternative SOP** – allowing several options for EMS if needed.

#1: If **FENTANYL** shortage: Make appropriate changes on Controlled Substance Log to reflect actual inventory.

Approved substitutes if no contraindications:

If no **FENTANYL**: May substitute **MORPHINE** 10 mg/2mL (if available) 0.1 mg/kg (no more than 2 mg max increments) every 2-3 min up to 10 mg total dose slow IVP/IO or 10 mg IM if no IV/IO .

If no **FENTANYL** or **MORPHINE**: May give **KETAMINE** per pain SOP: 0.3 mg/kg slow IVP (over 1 min) or IN/IM. See dose charts in appendix – May repeat X1 in 20 min.

#2: If **AMIODARONE** shortage: **Substitute Lidocaine 2%** (100mg/5 mL)

Indications: Same as amiodarone

Dosing unless contraindicated or use with caution listed in Drug Appendix

Cardiac Arrest from VT/VF:

- Initial dose: 1 mg/kg IV/IO
- For refractory VF may give additional 0.5 mg/kg IV push, repeat in 5 to 10 minutes; maximum 3 doses or total of 3mg/kg or 300 mg (whatever is less)

For stable VT, wide-complex tachycardia of uncertain type and significant ectopy:

- Doses Range from 0.5 mg/kg
- Repeat 0.5 mg/kg every 5-10 min with max total dose 3 mg/kg or 300 mg (whatever is less)
- Observe for toxicity (drug appendix) and discontinue drug as needed

#3: If **ADENOSINE** shortage: **Substitute Verapamil** per SOP– See Drug Appendix

Dose if no contraindications:

VERAPAMIL 5 mg SLOW IVP over 2 min (over 3 min in older patients). May repeat 5 mg in 15 min.

Cross-check all morphine and lidocaine drug/doses with 2nd paramedic/PHRN.

All drugs: Pay close attention to drug concentrations as they may be different than usual packaging.

Forward any questions to me or Connie Mattera.