

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4011
Effective Date: 5/4/18
Review Date: 8/4/2018

MEDICATION/SOLUTION SHORTAGES

I. PURPOSE

To establish a process for paramedic service providers to report actual or potential shortages of medications, intravenous (IV) solutions, and supplies which may cause the provider to not maintain minimum stock requirements.

To allow paramedic service providers the ability to request a waiver from minimum stock requirements for medications, IV solutions, and supplies for a period of up to thirty (30) calendar days. The paramedic service provider may request additional thirty (30) day waivers should the shortage continue.

II. POLICY

- A. Every paramedic unit, either first response or ambulance, is required to have no less than the specified amount of medications, IV solutions and supplies specified in policy # 4010 at all times.
- B. Upon recognition of an actual or potential shortage, the paramedic service provider shall work to mitigate the shortage through all reasonable means which may include using alternate sources to obtain the medications, IV solutions, or supplies.
- C. The paramedic service provider shall contact the EMS Duty Officer to provide initial notice of the actual or potential shortage. The paramedic service provider will also submit a "Drug Shortage Mitigations and Response Strategies" form and a "Policy 4010 Waiver Request" form to the EMS Duty Officer. The EMS Duty Officer may direct the forms to be submitted to another EMS Agency staff member.
- D. Once the ALS provider has received the medication and/or IV solution in short supply, the ALS provider shall immediately contact the EMS Agency and advise them of the arrival of the item(s) under the waiver program. The waiver will then be immediately terminated.
- E. If the ALS provider experiences another shortage/outage, a new waiver must be requested.
- F. ALS providers shall keep in contact with the EMS Agency with any changes in medication/solution inventories (including potential changes) or waiver status.
- G. The ALS provider agency will provide the EMS Agency with an educational plan acceptable to the EMS Agency to prepare field personnel to incorporate this shortage/outage into patient care.