



EMS Special Memorandum - #13-001

Date: April 15, 2013

To: Mendocino/ Sonoma County EMS Providers and System Stakeholders

From: Bryan Cleaver
Regional EMS Administrator

Mark Luoto, MD
Regional EMS Medical Director

Re: Acceptable Substitutions for Unavailable Medications

This Special Memo is intended to provide guidance to ALS Providers affected by the wide-spread shortage of some medications; particularly Dextrose 50% (D50). Should this medication become unavailable through suppliers and alternate vendors the following substitution is authorized.

ALS Providers may substitute 100mL of Dextrose 10% (D10) in place of D50 as described below:

If BS <80mg/dl or unmeasurable:

- a) Administer Dextrose 10% 100mL IV/IO
- b) Administer Glucagon 1mg IM if unable to establish IV/IO access
- c) Recheck if symptoms not resolved. If Glucagon has been administered, changes in glucose/mentation may require 15 minutes or more.
- d) Repeat additional Dextrose 10% 100mL IV/IO if glucose remains 80 or less.
- e) If available, administer Dextrose 50% 25g IV/IO if glucose remains 80 or less after full Dextrose 10% dose given (200mL). If Dextrose 50% unavailable administer Glucagon 1mg IM.
- f) If glucose remains 80 or less, expedite transport and repeat additional Dextrose 10% 100mL IV/IO.