

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4011
Effective Date: 7/1/2024
Review Date: 6/30/2027

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, whether first response or ambulance, is required to have no less than the specified amount of medications, IV solutions and supplies specified in Monterey County EMS System Policy #4010 (Paramedic Provider Authorized Stock) 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, including 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 Mitigation and Response Strategies" form (Form #4011B) and a "Policy 4010 Waiver Request" form (Form #4011A) to the EMS Duty Officer.
- D. While evaluating the waiver request, the EMS Agency shall evaluate the potential impact on other Monterey County paramedic service providers. If the supply shortage affects or may affect multiple agencies, the EMS Agency may issue a county-wide waiver.
- E. Once the paramedic service provider has received the medication and/or IV solution in short supply, the paramedic service provider shall immediately contact the EMS Agency and advise them of the arrival of the item(s) under the waiver program. The paramedic service provider's waiver will then be immediately terminated. If the EMS Agency issued a county-wide waiver, it will reevaluate the status of this waiver.
- F. If the paramedic service provider experiences another shortage/outage, a new waiver must be requested.
- G. Paramedic service providers shall advise the EMS Agency of any changes in medication/solution inventories (including potential changes) or waiver status.

- H. The paramedic service 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.

END OF POLICY



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