
From: Laurie Romig, MD [laurie.romig@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:29 AM
To: 'EMS_Chiefs'
Subject: Etomidate shortage ****IMPORTANT****
Attachments: Etomidate 1-30-12.pdf

Please see the attached file for interim guidance related to an ongoing shortage of Etomidate and distribute appropriately.

Thanks!

Laurie

Laurie A. Romig, MD, FACEP
Medical Director
Pinellas County EMS

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OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services

Memo

To: All system clinicians
From: Laurie A. Romig, MD, FACEP
Date: January 30, 2012
Re: Etomidate Shortage—Interim Directive

Our next drug shortage urgency involves Etomidate. We are hoping to have a source within the next month or so, but for now, our supplies are dwindling. This is a nationwide problem. We also have quite a few vials expiring within the next two or three months, so that will eat into our supply as well.

The following are interim action items:

- Effective immediately and until advised otherwise, the Etomidate par level will be decreased from a total of 120 mg to 80 mg per ALS vehicle. You may have 20 mg vials as well as 40 mg vials.
- Any Etomidate removed from ALS vehicles because of this adjustment **MAY BE KEPT AT THE AGENCY** and utilized as replacement stock. It must be kept under lock and key, as must all medications.
- Etomidate may be kept in service as long as is practical during the month of expiration, but may not be utilized after the last day of the expiration month. Expired Etomidate should be handled in the usual manner.
- Once the “reclaimed” agency stock has been used up or expired out, replacements will be obtained in the usual fashion. It would be helpful if the agencies would notify Philip Young at Sunstar when the reclaimed agency stock is close to depletion.

We are working on contingency plans with a different medication in case the anticipated sources fall through; however, the planning, protocol approval and training required would probably delay implementation until April at the earliest. In the meantime, clinicians should exercise their best judgment in choosing to perform Facilitated Intubation (FI). The appropriate medications for FI are still Etomidate and Fentanyl. Utilize OLMC as needed for assistance and as required by protocol.

We will keep the system apprised as we move forward. Please don't hesitate to call or email OMD with questions.