



Policy Name: Drug Shortage Relief Policy

Policy Number: 5.1-020113

PURPOSE: To provide relief from drug inventory requirements, protocol procedures and/or treatment options when drugs become unavailable or in short supply due to manufacturing shortages and/or other occurrences not directly under the control of the Emergency Medical Services Agency.

POLICY: Provide a formal process for the reporting and tracking of drug shortages by providing relief to those agencies who formally request it through temporary changes in protocol and policy to provide alternative treatments and drug substitution options.

PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENT:

- A. A link to the FDA Drug Shortage site will be available on the WVOEMS website for up-to-date information on shortages and expected relief dates.
- B. WVOEMS will maintain a listing of available distributors, manufacturers, and wholesalers to allow agencies alternative purchasing options.
- C. Agency officials and Medical Directors will need to exhaust all efforts obtaining medications from these alternative sources before reporting a shortage or outage to WVOEMS via www.wvoems.org.
- D. Outages allow agency officials to submit a request to WVOEMS via www.wvoems.org for relief by substitution, quantity reductions, alternative dosing or delivery and other alternatives.
- E. Drug substitutions or changes will exempt an agency from vehicle equipment lists, protocols, treatments and other direction for the drug which relief is being requested.
- F. Relief will be temporary and assigned a specific time frame.
- G. Relief will be reviewed and authorized by a majority of the MPCC and the State EMS Medical Director for approval.
- H. Relief will be specific to those agencies that have requested formal relief. It may be issued on a statewide basis by the MPCC and State EMS Medical Director.
- I. Relief is strictly for the purpose of national drug shortages and not for drug substitutions or quantity reductions of medication as a cost savings measure by agencies.

APPLICABLE CODE/RULE: WV CSR 64-48-5.1.g.

Effective Date: February 1, 2013

Approved:

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