



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Rocco S. Fucillo  
Cabinet Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All EMS Providers

**FROM:** Michael Mills, DO   
State EMS Medical Director

**DATE:** February 7, 2013

**RE:** Temporary Protocol Change

Due to the nationwide shortage/unavailability of ATROPINE, the following relief is being offered to all WV Licensed EMS Agencies.

Protocols affected are the following:

- 4205 Pulseless Arrest
- 4211 Symptomatic Bradycardia
- 4407 Dysrhythmia – Pediatric
- 9202 Nerve Agent

- ❖ Agencies with ATROPINE may continue to use the medication as directed by protocol until their stock is depleted.
- ❖ Agencies without ATROPINE are to notify Medical Command that the medication is not available.

There are no alternatives available for ATROPINE. Patient therapy requiring atropine (4205, 4211, 4407) are to utilize PACING instead.

- 4205 Pulseness Arrest – PACEMAKER
- 4211 Symptomatic Bradycardia – PACEMAKER
- 4407 Dysrhythmia – Pediatric – PACEMAKER

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**BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**  
*Office of Emergency Medical Services*  
350 Capitol Street, Room 425  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3714  
[www.wvoems.org](http://www.wvoems.org)

Telephone: (304) 558-3956

Fax: (304) 558-8379

- Protocol 9202 will be reviewed further and a decision will be made at a later date. If Mark-1 kits are available; continue to follow protocol. Otherwise use 2-Pam (pralidoximine) and treat symptoms accordingly.
  
- ❖ No formal/permanent change to the State Protocols will occur at this time in anticipation of future ATROPINE availability.
  
- ❖ This relief/directive will be effective starting 2/11/2013 and will continue for 90 days until 5/10/2013. If ATROPINE is still unavailable, this directive will be reviewed and renewed.
  
- ❖ All vehicle equipment lists will temporarily change from the current requirement of 3 Atropine doses on class "C" ALS vehicles to be optional with no required quantity for the 90 day extension.
  
- ❖ A memo outlining these changes will be forwarded to all Medical Command Facilities outlining these protocol treatment options.

cc: Medical Policy Care Committee  
Medical Command Centers  
WV EMS TSN  
All Agency Officials  
All Agency Medical Directors