



DEPARTMENT OF

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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To: Marin County EMS Constituents  
From: Dustin Ballard, MD; Medical Director  
Marin County EMS Agency

Date: December 20, 2017

Re: **Interim Policy Memo 2017-4: Medication Shortages**

Over the last year there have been several instances of our EMS providers facing medication shortages. This has become a national challenge that does not appear to be improving and we expect additional future shortages.

In order to provide a consistent process in dealing with this ongoing issue, the EMS Agency will use the following procedure:

- The provider experiencing the medication shortage will notify the EMS Agency in writing.
- The notification should include the name of the medication, the expiration dates, the expected dates for restock to arrive and proposed alternatives (action plan) to be used during the shortage period. We recommend the action plan consider all options and be based on historical medication utilization by the provider. Consideration should be given to: adjusting par levels, substitution, or extension of expiration dates (if FDA approved).
- The EMS Agency will review each request and will either approve the action plan or propose alternatives. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis; and a separate request will be required for each medication if multiple medications are on back order at the same time.

*Dustin Ballard*