



Medical Directive

Directive Number	<u>12-02</u>
Publish Date	<u>16 February 2012</u>
Effective Date	<u>16 February 2012</u>
Subject	<u>Medication Shortages and associated COG Changes</u>
Update to Clinical Operating Guidelines v 01.04.12	

Credentialed System Responder	Information
Credentialed EMT	Information
Credentialed EMT-Intermediate	Information
Credentialed EMT-Paramedic	Action
Credentialed EMD	Information

As you may know, there is a national drug shortage of common generic drugs. This is a problem that is being faced by EMS Systems and hospitals alike. We are working to find alternative solutions to the problem but there is no indication this will be resolved quickly or easily. While we are exploring all options to obtain drugs as soon as possible, at our current utilization rate we have a two (2) week supply of midazolam (Versed) and diazepam (Valium). As a result it has become necessary to modify our practice to preserve medications for those patients with a critical need. Effective immediately, the OMD is modifying our current drug administration practice for these medications as follows:

1. Midazolam (Versed) and/or diazepam (Valium) use is restricted to the treatment of active seizures **ONLY**. If the patient is actively seizing on the arrival of the transport unit and has not stopped seizing at the time of treatment the patient should be treated for seizures in accordance with the clinical operating guidelines (COG M-17). Patients who are post-ictal or who do not have subsequent tonic / tonic-clonic seizures should not be treated with midazolam or diazepam.
2. Midazolam and diazepam are no longer authorized as standing order medications for patients under the Behavioral clinical operating guideline (COG M-05). If verbal calming techniques and other efforts are not effective consider the use of haloperidol as described in the clinical operating guidelines. (COG M-05). Midazolam and diazepam are no longer authorized on standing order for substance abuse patients.
3. Patients with suspected Excited/Agitated Delirium (COG M-07) once physically restrained may be treated with midazolam or diazepam under standing orders for the safety of the patient and the providers..
4. The use of midazolam or diazepam in patients being treated for pain is **NOT** authorized at any time.
5. Midazolam (Versed) and/or diazepam (Valium) may continue to be utilized as prescribed where indicated in other protocols.

6. Any other use of these medications requires permission from the OMD On Call Medical Director. Contact communications to make the appropriate notification

All uses of midazolam or diazepam will be reviewed on a daily basis. Any use of these medications outside of the above established parameters will be considered a protocol deviation.

We will continue to work to resolve the issues of our local drug supply.

Thank you for the excellent care you continue to provide under these difficult circumstances.

Please contact us for any questions or concerns.

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