



Division of Public Health Services

Office of the Assistant Director

Public Health Preparedness Services

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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY, GOVERNOR

CARA M. CHRIST, MD, DIRECTOR

March 16, 2016

EMS Agencies and EMS Medical Directors,

The BEMSTS is keenly aware of the major impact that increasingly common drug shortages are having on EMS operations. We appreciate the efforts that many of you are making to identify methods of maximizing patient safety and quality of care and we thank you for continuing to apply due diligence in attempting to comply with the regulations governing the ALS Drug Box contents and par levels.

However, the Bureau acknowledges that there may be times when, for reasons beyond the control of the EMS agencies, hospitals, and medical directors, the shortages lead to an inability to obtain appropriate supplies of all required medications. In such cases, when all appropriate attempts to rectify the shortage have been made, we recognize that Fire Departments, EMS agencies, and Ambulance Services still have a duty to respond to requests for emergency medical care. In such cases, the need to respond may be the highest priority even when shortage-induced deficits have left the agency without a complete complement of all potentially-needed medications. In such cases, emergency response should continue while all appropriate measures are taken to resolve the medication shortages as quickly as possible.

This letter is in response to the constellation of drug-shortage events present on or around the date of this communication and has a term of effect that ends on June 30, 2017. If necessary, a similar communication may be distributed at a later date.

Again, we are grateful for your diligent commitment to quality of care, patient safety, and regulatory compliance and hope, with you, that the disruptions of medication availability will soon be resolved by the various manufacturers and regulatory agencies involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Mullins".

Terry Mullins
Bureau Chief
Bureau of EMS & Trauma System

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bentley J. Bobrow M.D.".

Bentley Bobrow, M.D.
Medical Director
Bureau of EMS & Trauma System

TM/BB:am