



July 2017

## Region XI EMS Monthly Pearls

- To address **critical drug shortages**, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has extended the expiration dates on certain lot numbers of emergency care injectable drugs. Each provider agency may review the posted list and clearly identify these affected medications for their EMS providers.
- For **Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)** patients, initiate **therapeutic hypothermia** for adult medical patients with sustained ROSC > 5 minutes and comatose with GCS ≤ 8 if there are no contraindications. EMS should initiate cooling and the STEMI-Receiving Center should continue per internal policies.
- **Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)** patients may not have a palpable pulse or blood pressure and should be assessed using other measures of perfusion such as mental status, skin color and condition, and respiratory rate and effort.
- A **LifeVest** is a wearable external defibrillator that continuously monitors a patient's cardiac rhythm and provides shocks as needed.
- **Trauma patients that are pregnant > 20 weeks** require consultation with Online Medical Control to determine if the patient should be transported to a Level 1 trauma center. Minor mechanisms such as low speed MVC may require fetal monitoring.

Questions? Contact your hospital EMS Coordinator or EMS Medical Director