



DATE: December 21, 2017
TO: Region XI EMS Providers
FROM: Region XI EMS Medical Directors Consortium
SUBJECT: Morphine Shortage – Alternate Concentrations

There is currently a national shortage of morphine. Our Region XI Drug, Equipment and Supply List (DES) currently specifies two approved concentrations of morphine: 10 mg/1 mL or 10 mg/10 mL. As this shortage worsens, Region XI Participating Hospitals may no longer be capable of replacing morphine at the approved concentration. Until this shortage is resolved, it is acceptable for EMS crews to accept the following alternate concentrations of morphine:

2 mg/1mL
4 mg/1 mL
5mg/1 mL

If accepting either the 2mg/1 mL or 4 mg/1 mL concentration of morphine, the total amount of morphine on the EMS unit will be 8 mg. If accepting the 5 mg/1 mL concentration, the total amount of morphine on the EMS unit will be 10 mg. **Under no circumstance shall any EMS unit carry more than 10 mg of morphine.**

IMPORTANT! The Region XI Pediatric Resuscitation Card calculates morphine dosage based on a 10 mg/1 mL concentration. If carrying an alternate concentration of morphine, EMS providers must manually calculate the weight based dose for pediatric patients and verify the correct dose with a base station **PRIOR** to drug administration.

EMS providers should take extra caution to verify proper calculation and dosage prior to administration. Any EMS crew accepting an alternate concentration must immediately contact their field supervisor prior to going back into service and follow their agency's policies regarding narcotic accountability and documentation.

For questions, please contact your Resource Hospital EMS Coordinator or EMS Medical Director.

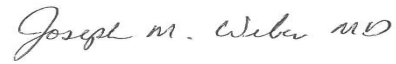
Kenneth Pearlman, MD
Chair, Region XI EMS Medical Directors Consortium
EMS Medical Director
Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Katie Tataris, MD, MPH
EMS Medical Director
University of Chicago Medical Center



MARKUL

Eddie Markul, MD
EMS Medical Director
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center



Joseph Weber, MD
EMS Medical Director
John H. Stroger Jr., Hospital of Cook County

Copy to: Cyd Gajewski, RN, EMS System Coordinator, University of Chicago Medical Center
Patricia Lindeman, RN, EMS System Coordinator, Northwestern Memorial Hospital
David Reisinger, RN, EMS System Coordinator, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
Lisa Wax, RN, EMS System Coordinator, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center