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.

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