



Informational Bulletin

Medication Shortages

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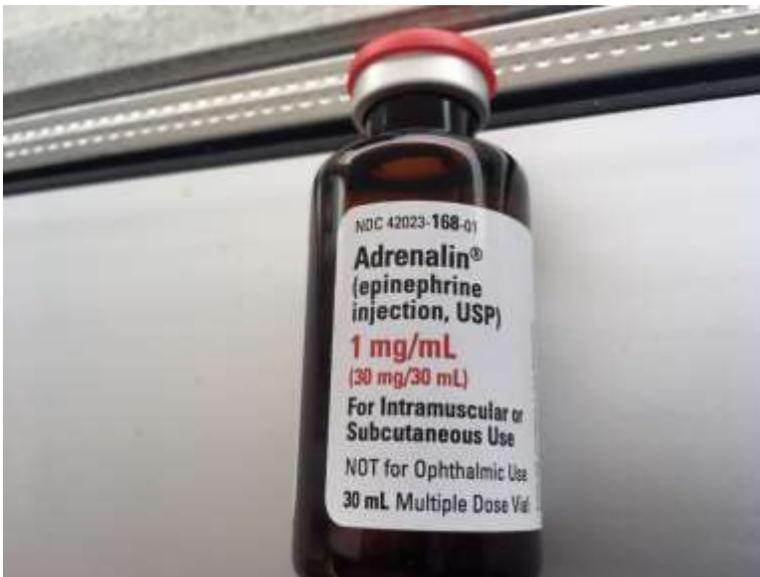
Approved By: Mark S. Ciarrocca, Acting Fire Rescue Chief

As everyone is aware, the epinephrine prefilled syringes have become scarce and may not be able to be procured in the near future. The FDA has predicted the shortage to last at least through September of 2019. To ensure a rapid response to a cardiac arrest event, personnel will need to build a cardiac arrest kit. To create this,

- A. Take a large zip-lock bag and in it, place 6 saline flushes, a 30ml vial of epinephrine (1mg/ml) and a vial access device.
- B. When working a cardiac arrest, push 1ml of saline from a flush and draw back 1ml of air.
- C. Attach the vial access device to the vial of epi.
- D. Attach the flush to the vial access device, push in the 1ml of air and draw back 1ml of epi.
- E. Mix it gently and now you have a syringe of 1:10,000 epi for cardiac use.

Using a 10ml syringe and drawing from a bag of saline are acceptable in lieu of utilizing the prefilled flushes.





With the vial access device you will not need the needles and multiple vial punctures that would otherwise be required. Another well-known issue with epinephrine are the Epi Pen and the Epi Pen Jr. The Epi Pen has literature stating that you may go one year past the expiration date, but the Epi Pen Jr. does not. Any Epi Pen Jrs. that are out of date need to be pulled from the units. Any Epi Pens that are past one year expiration need to be pulled off as well. Please refer to the protocols for the proper epinephrine dosage for Anaphylaxis.

Finally, pre-filled Sodium Bicarbonate is also on back order. It has been replaced with a vial (see picture below). The only difference in administration is that the medication must be drawn from a vial. The vial is 50mEq, as was the pre-filled. Please familiarize yourself with this new packaging.



Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief RJ Arft.