

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Patricia Charles-Heathers, Ph.D.
Director

Community Services Division
Daniel Del Monte
Deputy Director

Emergency Medical Services Agency
2900 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667
530-621-6500 Phone / 530-621-2758 Fax



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***** PARAMEDIC ALERT *****

No. 2018-02

Date: April 26, 2018

Topic: Contingency plan for Dopamine shortage

Effective: Immediately

Attention: All El Dorado County ALS Service Agencies/Base Hospitals

Subject: Contingency plan for Dopamine shortage if the supply is exhausted. This plan begins with the Epinephrine 1:1,000 concentration, since currently there may not be even inventory of the Epinephrine 1:10,000. Hence, the two step dilution process to produce the 1:100,000 concentration for the following Plan.

Plan: Push/Bolus Dose Vasopressor (**EPINEPHRINE**) for Cardiogenic or Distributive Shock, Intractable Hypotension, Shock due to Anaphylaxis, Impending Cardiac Arrest.

Procedure: If intravenous (IV) Epinephrine is needed in the hypotensive patient **AFTER** initiating IV fluid resuscitation, then follow the IV route directions for dilution.

First Step: From the multi-dose vial of Epinephrine 1:1,000, take (1) mL diluted with (9) mL NS = 0.1 mg/mL of 1:10,000 solution. Shake well.

NOTE: This is a **CARDIAC ARREST** dose. **DO NOT** give cardiac arrest doses to patients **WITH** a pulse.

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Second Step: Take (1) mL of the above (0.1) mg/mL 1:10,000 solution diluted with (9) mL NS = now you have 10 mL of Epinephrine 0.01 mg/mL of 1:100,000 solution. Shake well.

Dose: Then **SLOW IV PUSH** 0.5-2 mL (5-20 mcg) every 2-5 minutes. Produces effect within 1 minute.

NOTE: these patients are not in cardiac arrest, **RATHER**, patients with compromised perfusion who continue to have a pulse. This intervention is considered as a temporizing measure for transient hypotension or as a bridge to more definitive therapy.

Please contact the Emergency Medical Services Agency with any questions or clarifications regarding this alert.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Brazzel', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David Brazzel, MD
Medical Director, El Dorado County EMS Agency