



*** PARAMEDIC ALERT ***

No. 2010-01

Topic: Prevent Medication Errors

Effective: 2/5/2010

Attention: All El Dorado County Paramedics

With different concentrations of morphine sulfate currently in use in the system (4 mg or 10 mg per mL) it is imperative that routine medication verification checks are performed prior to any administration in the field.

All medications shall be administered using the six (6) rights of medication administration:

- 1. The right dose/concentration**
- 2. The right time**
- 3. The right method**
- 4. The right patient**
- 5. The right medication**
- 6. The right documentation**

In addition, all medications shall be triple checked when 1) selecting the medication, 2) while you are preparing it and, 3) just before administration. The triple check confirms:

- 1) You are delivering the correct medication**
- 2) The correct dose/concentration.**
- 3) The medication is not expired.**

Please make every attempt to not mix different concentrations of morphine on a single unit. It is permissible to shift all of the 10 mg pre-loaded syringes to one unit. If the minimum inventory cannot be maintained then wasting of the leftover 10 mg/mL medication and replacement with the 4 mg/mL concentration is advised. Document any shifting of medications from one unit to another or any wasting that must be done on the appropriate logs.