

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**Don Ashton, M.P.A.**  
Director

**Public Health Division**  
Chris Weston  
Program Manager II

931 Spring Street  
Placerville, CA 95667  
530-621-6100 Phone / 530-295-2501 Fax

1360 Johnson Boulevard, Suite 103  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
530-573-3155 Phone / 530-541-8409



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\*\*\* PARAMEDIC ALERT \*\*\*

### No. 2016-01

Date: January 25, 2016

Topic: Zofran (Ondansetron) Contraindicated in Pregnancy

Effective: Immediately

Attention: All EDC Paramedics

Based on recent studies regarding the association between Zofran use in early pregnancy and congenital cardiac malformations and oral clefts (cleft lip and palate), the FDA has cautioned against its use in pregnancy. There are also potential maternal risks associated with taking Zofran especially in pregnant women with electrolyte imbalance due to severe nausea and vomiting. These risks include the Serotonin Syndrome which is a triad of cognitive or behavioral changes including confusion, agitation, autonomic instability, and neuromuscular changes. Therefore, Zofran should not be taken during pregnancy.

The El Dorado County Formulary will be updated with this new contraindication.

David Brazzel, Medical Director