



# McLean County Area EMS System

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**TO:** All ILS and ALS providers

**FROM:** Gregory Scott, R.N., M.S., EMT-P, CHEC

**DATE:** May 30, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Anticipated 1:10,000 Epinephrine shortage

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You may have recently noticed that 1:10,000 epinephrine has been placed on the drug shortage list. In order to ensure quality patient care continues, we are putting the following guidelines for the dilution of 1:1,000 epinephrine in place. This guideline should only be used if your agency experiences a shortage. During the possible shortage, providers should choose vasopressin as their first line presser dose for patients in cardiac arrest.

Equipment needed:

- 10-12 ml syringe
- Multi-dose vial of 1:1,000 epinephrine
- 18 g non-filter hypodermic needle
- Source of 0.9% normal saline (multi-dose vial, or IV bag different than the patient's)
- Multi-dose vial mini spike adapter (available at hospital pharmacies)

Procedure:

1. Open and cleanse the top of the multi-dose 1:1,000 epinephrine vial
2. Using aseptic technique attach mini spike adapter to the multi-dose 1:1,000 epinephrine vial
3. Draw out 1 ml of 1:1,000 Epinephrine
4. Using aseptic technique, attach an 18g non-filter hypodermic needle to the syringe
5. Cleanse the stopper on the normal saline source
6. Draw out 9 ml of 0.9% normal saline
7. Total syringe volume should be 10 ml
8. Remove and safely dispose of the 18g hypodermic needle in a sharps container (DO NOT recap)
9. Administer the medication via IV
10. Safely dispose of the syringe
11. A new needle and syringe **must** be used for each dose
12. The stopper/adapter on the normal saline source and epinephrine vial must be cleansed each time it is used
13. The normal saline source must be disposed of after each patient; the epinephrine vial with the mini spike adapter attached can be kept for 28 days.

If agencies anticipate the need to utilize this new guideline, they are encouraged to stock quantities of 10-12 ml syringes and 18g non-filter hypodermic needles above the system required minimum amounts. If you have any questions or need further clarification please contact the EMS office at (309) 827-4348.

cc: Dr. Joel Nilles, EMS Medical Director  
Dr. Doug Ward, Alternate EMS Medical Director  
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