



McLean County Area EMS System

705 North East Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: (309) 827-4348
Fax: (309) 827-2017

TO: All ILS and ALS providers

FROM: Gregory Scott, R.N., M.S., EMT-P
EMS Coordinator

DATE: July 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Pre-filled medication shortage

There is a shortage of certain pre-filled medications that may begin to effect EMS providers in the McLean County Area EMS System. According to Advocate BroMenn pharmacy the following medications that are a part of the EMS protocols may be unavailable in pre-filled syringes:

1. Dextrose 50%
2. Epinephrine (1:10,000)
3. Calcium Chloride
4. Sodium Bicarbonate

This shortage is being caused by one of the two manufacturers of these type of syringes closing. This placed an unexpected demand on the second manufacturer that is resulting in shortages. Please have all personnel make sure that if they are receiving any of these medications in another storage container (such as a vial) that they have the appropriate equipment to administer (e.g. 50 cc syringe and large needle to draw and administer the Dextrose).

Also, since these are not controlled substances there may be other vendors that have these medications in supply that your organization could purchase from. Please notify the EMS office if there are any problems encountered or if other medications become in short supply.

Please feel free to contact the EMS office if you have any questions.