What are EMS Advisories?

EMS Advisories will be used as a method of providing information and communications to the Oakland County EMS System. Each advisory will contain an advisory number for future reference and record. Please consider these advisories as official communications.

What information will be shared via EMS Advisories?

- Protocol Notices
- Medication Recalls
- Equipment Updates
- Educational Updates
- Protocol Clarification
- Important MCA Communications

Who should review the EMS Advisories?

EMS Advisories should be shared with all EMS Providers in the Oakland County EMS System. These Advisories will be sent to the EMS Coordinators and Leadership in the Oakland County EMS System. They will also be posted on the OCMCA website under the protocols area. Once received this information should be shared with their respective personnel and posted in common areas.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA.
AUDIENCE: Oncology, Anesthesiology

ISSUE: FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients of an ongoing safety review and labeling changes for the anti-nausea drug Zofran (ondansetron, ondansetron hydrochloride and generics). Ondansetron may increase the risk of developing prolongation of the QT interval of the electrocardiogram, which can lead to an abnormal and potentially fatal heart rhythm, including Torsade de Pointes. Patients at particular risk for developing Torsade de Pointes include those with underlying heart conditions, such as congenital long QT syndrome, those who are predisposed to low levels of potassium and magnesium in the blood, and those taking other medications that lead to QT prolongation.

BACKGROUND: Zofran (ondansetron) is in a class of medications called 5-HT3 receptor antagonists. It is used to prevent nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery. FDA is requiring GlaxoSmithKline to conduct a thorough QT study to determine the degree to which Zofran (ondansetron) may cause QT interval prolongation.

RECOMMENDATION: The labels are being revised to include a warning to avoid use in patients with congenital long QT syndrome because these patients are at particular risk for Torsade. Recommendations for ECG monitoring in patients with electrolyte abnormalities (e.g., hypokalemia or hypomagnesemia), congestive heart failure, bradyarrhythmias, or in patients taking other medications that can lead to QT prolongation, are being included in the labels.

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:
Oakland County Medical Control Authority
EMS Advisory

• Complete and submit the report Online: [www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm)
• **Download form** or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on the pre-addressed form, or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178

Read the MedWatch safety alert, including a link to the Drug Safety Communication, at:

Hospital Pharmacies in Southeast Michigan are reporting an ongoing shortage of Valium and Fentanyl. Some hospitals have the Valium and Fentanyl in alternate packaging and other hospitals do not have it at all and are even using alternate medications in the Emergency Department.

Per the Regional Pharmacy Protocol, and consistent with past practice, Pharmacies should note on the exterior top of the medication box that Valium and/or Fentanyl are in alternate packaging or that one or both are not in the box.

Per Dr. McGraw, in cases of emergency, Midazolam could be ordered via On Line Radio Medical Control. Dosage would be 1-2 mg IVP for adults and a second dose of 1-2 mg after 5 minutes, if seizure continues. Contact Medical control for additional doses. For pediatrics, start at 0.05 mg/kg IVP and repeat in 5 minutes, if seizure continues. Contact Medical control for additional doses.

This is the excerpt from the Southeast Michigan Medication Exchange and Replacement Protocol that addresses Alternate Packaging and Shortages:

**MEDICATION BOXES – ALTERNATIVE PACKAGING AND SHORTAGES:**

A. Routinely, participating hospital pharmacies must provide items only in the dosage, concentration and packaging listed. Use of alternative vendors or manufacturers is acceptable if consistent with the required contents.

B. For products in short supply hospital pharmacies may stock the Medication Boxes/APacks with less than a 90 day expiration date.

C. When a medication in alternative packaging is the only product available, place alternative medication, use directions and supplies for medication preparation inside the Medication Box/A-Pack.

D. Attach a sticker to the exterior top of the Medication Box or to the clear side near the bottom of the A-Pack stating the substitution.

E. Directions for specific medications in short supply, throughout the regional exchange system will be addressed through communications with participating pharmacies as approved by the Regional Protocol participating MCAs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA.
This advisory will provide clarification regarding the wasting of narcotics and obtaining a witness signature.

It has come to our attention that some of the Hospitals have developed policies that restrict their staff, RN’s and Physicians from signing the witness line on the SEM MED BOX/A-PACK SUPPLY USE/REPLACEMENT FORM. In the event that you encounter difficulty obtaining a witness signature, please be aware that, per protocol, your ALS partner may sign the witness line (see protocol below).

Per Protocol 5-34:

In the event that controlled substances are prepared for use and not used or the entire contents of a container are not used, the remaining medication will be appropriately wasted by ALS crew member in the presence of licensed hospital personnel/or other ALS crew member. Documentation of waste must be completed before the physician signs the Documentation of Use Form. The following will be recorded on the Documentation of Use Form:

1. The name and amount of the medication wasted.
2. The initials of the ALS crew member and hospital personnel or other ALS crew member witnessing the waste.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA.
Currently in our 2011 EMS Protocol Manual, there is a State Refusal of Care Protocol under General Procedures, Section 5-22 and an Oakland County Refusal of Care/Transportation under System Protocols, Section 6-23, which conflicts with the State version.

Since refusals of medical care and transportation are one of the biggest liabilities for EMS providers, it has been determined that we need to delete the Oakland County Refusal of Care protocol in the System Section 6-23 and keep the State version in Section 5-22.

The Oakland County Refusal of Care protocol will be deleted from the Protocols on our website. Please have your personnel pull this protocol from their manuals as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248 975-9704.

PLEASE DELETE OR PULL FROM YOUR MANUAL THE REFUSAL OF CARE/TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL IN SYSTEM SECTION 6-23
Every medication has an approved generic name. Often, it will also have one or more trade names. This can sometimes lead to confusion.

This is a list of the medications in the Southeast Michigan (SEM) Regional Drug Box. We have identified the trade name for COMMONLY CONFUSED medications that are carried by our Paramedics. Midazolam (Versed) and Ondansetron (Zofran) are two recent additions to the SEM Regional Drug Box and being familiar of with generic name will reduce the chance for a medical error.

As a safeguard against medical errors please familiarize your Paramedics with this list.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248 975-9704.

### Medication Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic Name</th>
<th>Trade Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adenosine</td>
<td>Adenocard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amiodarone</td>
<td>Cordarone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diazepam</td>
<td>Valium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diphenhydramine</td>
<td>Benadryl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fentanyl</td>
<td>Sublimaze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furosemide</td>
<td>Lasix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ipratropium Bromide</td>
<td>Atrovent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lidocaine</td>
<td>Xylocaine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methylprednisolone</td>
<td>Solu-medrol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midazolam</td>
<td>Versed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naloxone</td>
<td>Narcan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ondansetron</td>
<td>Zofran</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please be advised that the OCMCA Transportation Protocol has been updated to reflect a status change of two of our hospitals, as follows:

Effective immediately, Henry Ford West Bloomfield is providing 24/7 Acute STEMI Interventions.

Effective June 18 at 0700, Providence Novi will begin providing 24/7 Acute STEMI Interventions.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248-975-9704.
Please be advised that the OCMCA has approved the use of the Spit Sock Hood for Life Support Agencies that chose to utilize this protective barrier device. Each agency that uses this device should review the following procedure and precaution with their EMS providers.

**SPIT SOCK HOOD**

Use the Spit Sock Hood by simply slipping it over the subject’s face and head. This should be accomplished by at least two people. One person should observe the subject for the duration of its use. If any signs of medical distress are observed, remove the Spit Sock Hood, and initiate medical care.

The Spit Sock Hood should be used as one-use only disposable piece of equipment.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248 975-9704.
TRANSPORT OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

It has been brought to our attention that some psychiatric patients are being transported directly to a psychiatric facility, not an approved OCMCA hospital. If your agency responds to a call for a psychiatric patient that is not in a licensed medical facility (i.e. a hospital), Michigan law and OCMCA protocol requires the patient be transported to an approved OCMCA hospital for medical clearance. Any deviation of protocol must have the consent of on-line medical control and documented.

For clarification, there are basically two types of calls for psychiatric patients, which include:

- Inter-facility non-emergent transports. This type of patient is being transported from one healthcare facility (i.e., hospital, private psychiatrist’s office, etc.) to a psychiatric facility for admission. This type of call does not require medical clearance by on-line medical control since a physician has already evaluated the patient.
- A 911 response or any response to a private residence or group home for a committal. These calls for service will need to be transported to an OCMCA hospital or need the consent of on-line medical control to transport to a non-OCMCA participating facility, such as Common Ground, since a physician has not necessarily evaluated the patient.

If your Life Support Agency is participating in this practice, you must immediately rectify this issue. PSRO will be evaluating any deviation from protocol in order to continue to enhance patient safety in our EMS system.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248 975-9704.
EMS DRUG BOX CHANGES

On October 2, 2012 minor changes will be occurring to the EMS drug boxes. As always, these will be done as the boxes come in for exchange and noted on the exterior of the box with an updated label. Changes are as follows:

- Dopamine concentration will change from the 400mg/5ml vial to the 200mg/5ml vial. Quantity #2
- Addition of the Laryngeal Mucosal Atomizer Device (LMAD) for nasal administration of Midazolam. Quantity #2
- No changes to the A-pack

The new LMAD will be found in the bottom of the EMS Drug Box (see Protocol schematic). If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA at 248 975-9704.
ATTENTION: Oakland County Hospital Pharmacies and EMS Providers

ISSUE: It was brought to our attention that the recent contaminated medication causing Fungal Meningitis might also impact drugs being carried by our ALS agencies.

The FDA provided the following statement related to the Fungal Meningitis Outbreak:

“The New England Compounding Center (NECC), following an earlier recommendation by the FDA that none of the firm’s compounded products be used, announced a voluntary recall of all products currently in circulation that were compounded at and distributed from its facility in Farmingham, Massachusetts.

The FDA is working closely with the CDC to investigate an outbreak of meningitis among patients who had received an epidural steroid injection. Investigation into the exact source of the outbreak is still ongoing, but the outbreak is associated with a potentially contaminated medication. **Out of an abundance of caution, FDA is taking the additional step of recommending that health care professionals and consumers not use any product that was produced by NECC at this time.** In addition, FDA requests that health care professionals retain and secure all remaining products purchased from NECC until FDA provides further instructions regarding the disposition of these products.”

For more information please go to the following website:  
http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm322734.htm

In addition, the New England Compounding Center issued the following statement:
The OCMCA has surveyed the 14 hospitals in our system and NONE of them purchase medications from NECC. However, it may be possible that hospitals outside our county are restocking the EMS Drug Boxes and they are filtering back into the Oakland County EMS System.

In effort to make the safest possible environment for our patients the OCMCA will ask that EMS Coordinators share this information your EMS providers. Please ask them to be double check medications that they give to patients for the logo shown above. If they find any medications from NECC and the patient is in a critical life threatening need for that medication the EMS provider should contact on-line medical control to help evaluate the risks and benefits, in consideration of the patient’s condition. Also report the identified medication to the hospital pharmacy.

**Oakland County Hospital Pharmacies**

1. Please verify that the EMS Drug Boxes you have in stock and the boxes being exchanged do not have any NECC products in them.
2. After the EMS Drug Box has been confirmed to be in accordance with the FDA’s recall please label the box “Recall Compliant” and include the date of compliance.
3. Work with EMS Agencies to verify that all EMS Drug Boxes are “Recall Compliant”.

**EMS Coordinators (ALS Life Support Agencies Only):**

1. Contact your Medical Control Hospital to schedule a time to have your EMS Drug Boxes checked for any potential recall items.
2. Advise EMS Providers to look for “Recall Compliant” labeling when exchanging their EMS Drug Boxes.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**
ATTENTION: Oakland County Hospital Pharmacies and EMS Providers

Purpose: The purpose of this protocol is to address the National shortage of Dextrose 50%. This protocol authorizes the substitution of the Dextrose 10% solution in place of Dextrose 50%. If available in prefilled syringe or vial, Dextrose 50% solution is the preferred form to be placed in Southeast Michigan Medication Boxes. If not available Dextrose 10% may be substituted. The substitution should include labeling on the medication box indicating the substitution has taken place. Dextrose 10% may be supplied as in 250 ml (25 gm), 500 ml (50gm) or 1000 ml (100 gm) bags. The larger volume bags may only be used if the smaller bags are not available.

Michigan and local MCA protocols that define an indication for Dextrose 50% are affected by this protocol. When the Dextrose 10% substitution has taken place Dextrose 10% should be administered according to the following procedure.

Pre-Medical Control
PARAMEDIC
1. Adult Patients
   A. If blood glucose is found to be less than 60 mg/dl or hypoglycemia is suspected:
      Administer dextrose 10%, 5 gms (50 ml) IV/IO, may repeat to a total of 25 gms.

2. Pediatric Patients
   A. If blood glucose is found to be less than 60 mg/dl or hypoglycemia is suspected:
      Administer dextrose 10%, 1 ml/kg IV/IO to a maximum of 50 ml per dose, may repeat to a total of 4 ml/kg or 25 gms.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
ATTTENTION: Oakland County EMS Providers

Doctor’s Hospital of Michigan, located at 462 Huron, Pontiac, will be closing their Emergency Department effective September 30, 2013. The Oakland County Radios will be collected that afternoon, and the hospital will lose their ability to give medical control.

Absolutely no EMS patients are to be transported to Doctor’s Hospital after 12:00 pm on Monday, September 30, 2013.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
ATTENTION: Oakland County ALS Providers & Pharmacists

One hospital in our regional system purchased Dextrose vials from Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy back when Dextrose was in short supply. The Dextrose vial has shown up on a recall list.

Pharmacists: Please visually inspect the A-packs and drug boxes for compounded products. They should be easy to spot. The primary product that might be involved would be the Dextrose 50% in a vial, not prefilled syringe, form. Otherwise no other products would likely occur.

ALS: When opening a drug box or A-Pack for use, please inspect the Dextrose prior to administering. If you find a vial of Dextrose from the compounding pharmacy, please bring it to your medical control hospital.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
ATTENTION: Oakland County EMS Providers

Effective January 27, 2014 DMC Surgery Hospital is no longer accepting EMS traffic AT ALL. DMC Surgery Hospital is located at 30671 Stephenson Highway, Madison Heights, Michigan.

The Oakland County Radios will be collected this week, and the hospital has lost its ability to give medical control as of today.

Absolutely no EMS patients are to be transported to DMC Surgery Hospital, effective immediately.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
ATTENTION: Oakland County EMS Providers

The Oakland County Medical Control Authority has approved the use of a unified pre-hospital field note in the Oakland County EMS System for seamless delivery of emergency patients to the Oakland County Hospitals.

The OCMCA Field Note is the only field note distributed in Oakland County. Please use your remaining stock, then begin using the OCMCA Field Note. This will help us provide each ED with consistency and represent a unified Oakland County EMS System.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. Please feel free to contact the OCMCA with any questions or concerns.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
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<tr>
<th>VITAL SIGNS</th>
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<th>TIME #3</th>
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**MEDICAL Hx**

**SCENE CONDITIONS:**

**MEDICAL ONLY**

**ACCIDENT**

**DRIVER / PASSENGER**  ROLLOVER  Y / N  HELMET  Y / N
**ENTRAPMENT**  Y / N  EXTRICATION TIME NEEDED
**SEAT BELT**  Y / N  AIRBAG DEPLOYMENT  Y / N

**TREATMENT(S)**

**EKG INTERPRETATION:**

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ATTENTION: Oakland County EMS Coordinators and Dispatch Staff

Please implement the following information/protocol with your dispatch staff effective immediately. Review protocol 6-4 for more information. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the OCMCA.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Aircraft Dispatch Notification (24/7 Operations Only)

The Oakland County Medical Control Authority recognizes the following aircraft companies available for emergency calls 24/7. Note: Only Oakland County EMS and dispatch personnel may request air medical transport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont One</td>
<td>888 476-0005</td>
<td>Royal Oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>U of M Survival Flight</td>
<td>800 822-2233</td>
<td>Ann Arbor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE CONTACT THE OCMCA FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

1200 North Telegraph Rd. Bldg. 36E
Pontiac, MI 48341
248-975-9704
248-975-9723 (fax)

Emergency Number 24/7
248-858-5300

www.ocmca.org