



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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TO: Fire Chiefs
Fire Department EMS Coordinators
Base Hospital Physician Directors
Base Hospital Coordinators
Paramedic Training Programs

FROM: Samuel J. Stratton, MD, MPH
Orange County EMS Medical Director

SUBJECT: **MORPHINE SULFATE FORMULARY CHANGE AFFECTING INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION**

The US Food and Drug Administration approved producers of morphine sulfate (MS) for injection have changed the formulation used for the medication. Because of this change, U.S. health care providers have been advised that the intramuscular (IM) and subcutaneous (SQ) routes will no longer be approved for administration of MS.

Because of the change in formulation, MS will no longer be available for IM or SQ injection in the field. To coordinate this change in administration of MS, effective November 1, 2012, the IM and SQ route will no longer be acceptable for the administration of MS in the Orange County EMS system. Standing orders that will be affected by this change include:

SO-C-15	Chest Pain (adult)
SO-E-05	Burn (adult)
SO-E-30	Snake Envenomation
SO-P-25	Amputation (pediatric)
SO-P-30	Crush Injury (pediatric)
SO-P-95	Burn (pediatric)
SO-T-05	General Trauma
SO-T-15	Amputation (adult)
SO-T-20	Crush Injury (adult)

As a result, the intravenous route (IV) will be the only approved method for administration of MS within the Orange County EMS System.

Please contact the Orange County EMS Agency for any questions or comments you may have.

SS:ksh #1540