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**DATE:** August 24, 2023

**TO:** ORANGE COUNTY ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PROVIDERS  
BASE HOSPITAL COORDINATORS

**FROM:** CARL H. SCHULTZ, MD *CHS*  
OCEMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** **SHORTAGE OF MIDAZOLAM 5 mg/1 mL VIALS WITH AUTHORIZATION FOR USE UP TO 6 MONTHS PAST EXPIRATION DATE**

Orange County advanced life support providers are now having increasing difficulty purchasing midazolam in the concentration of 5 mg/1 mL in single dose vials. This solution is commonly used to treat seizures and combative behavior as an IM injection. Currently available concentrations include 5 mg/ 5 mL, which is not acceptable for these indications.

During this time of a midazolam drug shortage in the concentration of 5 mg/1 mL, OCEMS is authorizing the following modifications of current policies and procedures until supplies return to normal:

OCEMS is authorizing the use of expired midazolam in the concentration of 5 mg/1 mL with drug administration not to exceed more than 6 months past the drug's expiration date.

If expired midazolam is used, patients or their family/representatives and OCEMS must be notified that these expired medications were administered, and notification must be provided to OCEMS no more than 72 hours after use.

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