

INTRODUCTION

This section of our Spokane County EMS manual lists all the drugs that are intended to be used for appropriate indications within our EMS system. Recent recurring shortages of some of these medications have required the substitution of alternative drugs with similar effects.

Within Washington State, the Medical Program Directors have identified a list of 'approved' substitute medications that may be used when the preferred drug is not available. This list appears following our regular protocol drugs.

The use of an approved substitute drug may be done **ONLY** if the following conditions are met:

1. All regular means of obtaining supplies of protocol drugs have been exhausted.
2. Early notification of an impending shortage of a protocol drug to the Medical Program Director by the EMS Officer and /or the EMS service Physician Advisor has occurred.
3. The most appropriate available substitute will be selected by the Medical Program Director in consultation with EMS service Physician Advisors and/or EMS Officers such as time and circumstance will allow.
4. Prior to the use of an alternative drug by an EMS provider they will have received training in the proper the use of the drug by their own agency or another EMS agency with a comparable scope of practice, by certified EMS instructors and/or an MPD delegated EMS physician.
5. All cases of use of the alternative medication will be reviewed within the EMS agency's Quality Improvement process for an appropriate period of time and reports made available to the MPD or agency Physician Advisor.
6. Once the preferred drug has become available, the EMS agency will reintroduce it as soon as is practical and notify their Physician Advisor as well as the Medical Program Director of their intent to reinstitute the use of the preferred drug.