



*Detroit East Medical Control Authority
Special Advisory*

RE: Opioid Shortage and EMS Pain Management Change of Practice

Date: March 30, 2018

Opioid shortage has reached a critical stage. Many EDs are using oral pain medications when possible and IV Opioids are becoming unavailable in the ED. This is expected to continue and will result in either shortage or elimination of opioids from the EMS medication box in the near future.

In order to keep an EMS supply of opioids as long as possible, we are asking that ALS providers consider limiting the use of IV opioids. It has gotten to the point where we need to further limit use and standardize practice in our system.

Until further notice, please limit IV opioid use to the following indications:

- 1) Major burns
- 2) Significant extremity fractures
- 3) Cardiac chest pain not relieved with administration of 3 SL Nitro tabs
- 4) Obvious severe kidney stone pain

Please do not use IV opioids for the following indications:

- 1) Headache
- 2) Abdominal pain
- 3) Non-kidney stone back pain
- 4) Any other pain not defined in either of these lists

Thanks you for your assistance in the endeavor. The better we are at restricting IV opioid use, the longer opioids will be available for the patients who might really benefit from continued IV opioid availability.

For any questions please contact DEMCA at:

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