



UTSW/Parkland BioTel EMS ALERT

April 29, 2019

EMS ALERT 19-002

Sodium Bicarbonate Shortage

Purpose:

To advise BioTel EMS Providers about an ongoing shortage of injectable sodium bicarbonate and about system-wide measures to address this shortage.

Background:

The FDA confirmed in March 2019 that sodium bicarbonate continues to be one of several injectable emergency medications subject to ongoing shortage due to multiple supply-chain issues ([LINK](#)).

BioTel EMS System measures to address the shortage, effective immediately and until further notice:

1. ALS Apparatus "Minimum Carry" of prefilled syringes (50 mL of 8.4% Sodium Bicarbonate, 1 mEq/mL) has been reduced to two (2) each per ALS apparatus:
 - a. EMS Providers should contact their Field Supervisor or other, designated EMS Officer for immediate restocking when/if their apparatus has administered both available doses.
2. Reminder of the indications for possible use of injectable sodium bicarbonate:
 - a. Standing orders (with continuous ECG monitoring):
 - i. Cardiac arrest (asystole/PEA or VFib/pulseless Vtach) or impending cardiac arrest (hypotension, shock and wide, slurred QRS complex on ECG) in the setting of:
 1. Renal failure/dialysis; tricyclic anti-depressant toxicity; Excited Delirium Syndrome
 - b. Consult BioTel prior to administration (with continuous ECG monitoring):
 - i. Diphenhydramine, aspirin or stimulant toxicity (known or suspected);
 - ii. Crush injury with wide, slurred QRS complex;
 - iii. Prolonged ACLS resuscitation (longer than 15 minutes) with adequate ventilation;
 - iv. Cardiac arrest associated with known or suspected Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA); or
 - v. Known or suspected hyperkalemia (e.g. tall, peaked T-waves on ECG).
 - c. ROUTINE use of sodium bicarbonate in cardiac arrest except as listed above is **NOT** indicated.
3. Extension of use for up to 12 months beyond the expiration date on the medication package.

References (links accessed 29 April 2019, subject to change):

- [BioTel EMS System CPGs](#): refer to specific CPGs and the BioTel PEDI-Guide for dosing details
 - [2014 Treatment Guidelines](#)
 - [2018 Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) and [PEDI-Guide](#)

Questions or concerns about sodium bicarbonate or about this EMS Alert?
Please contact BioTel or send an email to BioTelDocs@utsouthwestern.edu