



DATE: March 6, 2014  
TO: Orange County ALS Provider Agencies  
FROM: Sam J. Stratton, MD, MPH  
Medical Director, HCA/Emergency Medical Services  
Orange County Health Care Agency

**Subject: AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION FOR ATROPINE**

A number of Orange County EMS providers are encountering a current shortage of atropine in vials and pre-filled syringes. This memorandum is to authorize approval for 30 day extension of expiration for atropine vials and pre-filled syringes when an Orange County ALS provider agency is unable to resupply expired atropine. This authorization is in effect up to April 14, 2014 (up to April 14, expired atropine that cannot be replaced due to shortage can be extended for 30 days).

If extended expiration atropine is used please follow the following protocol:

1. When an extended expiration medication is administered, the term "extended expiration atropine used" is to be entered in the text entry section of the ePCR.
2. Notify the OCEMS Medical Director by telephone or email at 714 834 2824 or [ss Stratton@ochca.com](mailto:ss Stratton@ochca.com) within 24 hours of each use of extended expiration atropine. If there is not an answer to a telephone call a voice message (which is on a secure line) may be left at the contact telephone number.
3. The OCEMS Medical Director will inform the patient (at the address recorded on the ePCR) who received the extended expiration drug, the receiving hospital and as appropriate the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.
4. Records of all extended expiration medication use will be kept by OCEMS for a period of three years.

Please let me know of any questions or comments you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Stratton".

Sam J. Stratton, MD, MPH