



Rappahannock Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

*Serving Caroline, Colonial Beach, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fredericksburg,
King George, Orange, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, and Stafford*

MEMORANDUM

TO: All EMS Agencies

FROM: Dr. White, Regional OMD
REMS Council Regional Pharmacy Committee

DATE: May 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Medication Shortages – UPDATE from July 2017 interim guidelines

The region continues to work through a variety of drug shortages. Shortages in 2018 are expected to be widespread and long-lasting per the FDA's latest national update. The regional pharmacy committee continues to work with medical direction and the hospital pharmacy representatives to provide the items agreed upon in the regional restocking agreement. Please be sure to check any regional medication kits for labelling which indicates replacement items or variances.

In July 2017 Calcium Chloride was announced as a shortage. An interim guideline was issued at that time to substitute its use in the protocols with Calcium Gluconate. **Calcium Gluconate** is now unavailable so the previous temporary guideline has been rescinded. Please resume using Calcium Chloride.

Ketamine, along with many other controlled substances, remains on shortage with no suitable sustainable replacement.

Zofran use is encouraged in the ODT form when possible in order to limit the use of vials, which are currently in an unstable restocking status.