



# Westchester Regional EMS Council

## REMAC ADVISORY

### Dobutamine

**Issued:** August 18, 2009

Subsequent to approval of the 2008 Westchester Regional Paramedic Protocols by the NY State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC), it has been identified that an incorrect concentration of the medication Dobutamine has been listed as a Medical Control Option in Medical Protocol 9.0 – Non-Traumatic Shock. Currently, Dobutamine is listed as:

**DOBUTAMINE 400 mg / 250 ml 0.9% Normal Saline**, initiate drip at 5 – 10 mcg/kg/min. If there is insufficient improvement in status, the infusion rate may be titrated upward in increments of 5 mcg/kg/min until desired therapeutic effect is reached (maximum dose of 25 mcg/kg/min).

Since commercially available dosage forms for Dobutamine do not include the above concentration, it has become necessary to revise the Medical Control Option for Dobutamine usage as follows:

**DOBUTAMINE 250 mg / 250 ml D5W**, initiate drip at 5 – 10 mcg/kg/min. If there is insufficient improvement in status, the infusion rate may be titrated upward in increments of 5 mcg/kg/min until desired therapeutic effect is reached (maximum dose of 25 mcg/kg/min).

It must be noted that due to similarities in drug names, there is a risk that Dobutamine and Dopamine may be confused. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) includes this medication among its list of drugs which have a heightened risk of causing significant patient harm when used in error.

All providers are advised that this change will become effective immediately.

Please refer all questions regarding this advisory to the Regional EMS Office Staff. Your anticipated cooperation is appreciated.

Issued by:

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