



Westchester Regional EMS Council

REMAC ADVISORY Pharmaceutical Shortage Update

Issued: July 15, 2010

The Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) has received additional notification from the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS regarding the continuing shortage of pharmaceuticals commonly found in the pre-hospital care environment. To better understand the potential and real affects on the EMS system, the Bureau has asked for feedback from all REMAC members, ALS agency medical directors, and ALS agency operations officers via Regional EMS offices.

ALS services are advised to communicate with their medical directors, supplying hospital pharmacies and/or vendors to review current inventories and contingency plans. Notification of critical medication shortfalls should be made to the Regional EMS office by calling (914) 231-1616 as soon as possible so that REMAC may institute any needed protocol modifications.

Enclosed are the following items relevant to the situation:

- Letter from the NYSDOH dated June 10, 2010
- Pharmaceutical back order matrix

Additional information regarding specific medication shortages may be found at the FDA website for drug shortages:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm050792.htm>

Please refer all questions regarding this advisory to the Regional EMS office. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Issued by:

Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD, FACEP
Chair, Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee
Regional Medical Director, Westchester Regional EMS Council