



Westchester Regional EMS Council

REMAC ADVISORY

Benzodiazepine Supply

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The Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) continues to receive notifications of shortages of pharmaceuticals commonly found in the pre-hospital care environment.

One of the medications that has been experiencing chronic supply issues is diazepam injection (Valium). Because the supply has been so inconsistent at times, the REMAC incorporated into its Paramedic Protocols the ability for Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to stock and use three (3) benzodiazepines:

Drug	Status in Protocol	Min. Quantity (Stock)	Administration
Diazepam (Valium)	Required	20 mg	IV, Rectal
Midazolam (Versed)	Required	5 mg	IV, IM
Lorazepam (Ativan)	Optional	4 mg	IV, IM

There is an option to administer any of these 3 benzodiazepines in Paramedic Protocol M – 12: Seizures in the case of status-epilepticus. For situations where the administration for a sedative agent is appropriate, the protocols provide for either diazepam or midazolam to be requested.

It is understood that most ALS agencies do not normally carry lorazepam due to the cold-chain storage requirements and its relatively short life span (30 days) if not refrigerated. ALS agencies are reminded if it becomes necessary to add lorazepam to your carried sub-stock of controlled substances, or increase existing par values of midazolam, due to an inability to stock diazepam, an amendment **MUST** be made to the agency's NYSDOH Part 80 plan and the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) must be advised.

Considering that it is very likely the region will continue to experience supply shortages of diazepam, all ALS agencies are urged to proactively modify their Part 80 plans to indicate the possible need to carry lorazepam and/or increase the midazolam par values due to future valium shortages. It is recommended that this action be taken under the specific advisement and permission of your Service Medical Director.

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

Issued by:

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