



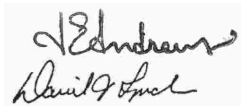
Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T #01-2018

TO: All Fresno/Kings/Madera/Tulare EMS Providers, Hospitals, First Responder Agencies, and Interested Parties

FROM: Jim Andrews, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Daniel J. Lynch, Director 

DATE: February 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Lactated Ringers

The EMS Agency is aware that there is a national shortage of Lactated Ringers and Normal Saline used by all healthcare providers, and there is no timeline as to when these fluids will become available from the manufacturer. This has caused difficulties in restocking these fluids for EMS providers in our Central California EMS Region.

While this shortage continues, our biggest concern at this time is limiting how frequently these fluids are used to preserve our current inventories. We are making changes to restrict the use of Lactated Ringers so it can be used on the most appropriate patients.

Therefore, **effective immediately**, any patient receiving Lactated Ringers must be hypotensive (SBP < 90) or have an order for fluid resuscitation from a Base Hospital Physician. Any patient who is not hypotensive can receive a Saline Lock if the patient requires IV access. Additionally, if Normal Saline becomes available, it may be substituted in all CCEMSA patient care protocols in place of Lactated Ringers.

It has also been reported that the 250 ml bags of Normal Saline are also difficult to obtain. However, we understand that agencies may still be able to obtain 500ml bags of Normal Saline or Lactated Ringers. The use of a 500 ml bag will require that the paramedic to “run-off” or drain the bag until 250 ml is remaining and use the 250 ml in accordance with protocol.

The EMS Agency will rescind this order once the Lactated Ringers shortage is resolved.

If you have any questions, please contact Dale Dotson, EMS Coordinator, at (559) 600-3387.

DJL