



Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency



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Date: June 3, 2025

To: Yolo County ALS Providers, Base Hospital, Hospitals

From: Yolo County EMS Agency

Subject: Interim Guidelines for Amiodarone Shortage

MEMORANDUM

Due to a nationwide shortage of amiodarone impacting EMS providers, YEMSA is authorizing modifications to the following EMS patient care protocols where amiodarone is indicated for cardiac dysrhythmias; Tachycardia with Pulses, and Medical Cardiac Arrest. There are no modifications to the Post Resuscitation Care protocol.

Before implementing the changes listed in this memo, provider agencies must make multiple attempts to purchase amiodarone in different formulations and from multiple sources. Provider agencies should also contact YEMSA to determine if reduced stocking levels of amiodarone will be sufficient to mitigate the impacts of the shortage. Attempts should also be made to obtain amiodarone from other provider agencies.

In the event of an ongoing shortage of amiodarone despite the measures above, the following protocol changes are authorized, effective June 3, 2025, and until otherwise rescinded by YEMSA:

Substitution of 2% lidocaine HCL in place of amiodarone:

- Notify YEMSA at EMSDutyOfficer@yolocounty.gov when ALS units will be stocked with lidocaine to substitute for amiodarone. Notification will result in an exemption from the minimum stocking levels of amiodarone listed in YEMSA ALS inventory policies.
- Document the use of lidocaine in a CEMSIS-compliant ePCR system.
- Continue attempts to obtain amiodarone and notify YEMSA when able to restock amiodarone.

Guideline for the use of lidocaine:

Cardiac Arrest (adult or pediatric) with Ventricular Tachycardia (VT) or Ventricular Fibrillation (VF)

- Initial dose: 1 mg/kg IV/IO.
- For refractory VF, may give an additional 1 mg/kg IV push, repeat in 5 to 10 minutes: maximum 3 doses or a total of 3 mg/kg.

Perfusing Arrhythmia: stable VT, wide complex tachycardia of uncertain type

- Initial dose 1 mg/kg.
- May repeat 0.5 mg/kg every 5-10 minutes with a maximum total dose of 3 mg/kg.

Please contact Douglas Brim at douglas.brim@yolocounty.gov with any questions.