October 23, 2012

TO: Fire Chiefs
    Fire Department EMS Coordinators
    Base Hospital Physician Directors
    Base Hospital Coordinators
    Paramedic Training Programs

FROM: Samuel J. Stratton, MD, MPH
    Orange County EMS Medical Director

SUBJECT: MORPHINE SULFATE FORMULARY CHANGE AFFECTING INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

The US Food and Drug Administration approved producers of morphine sulfate (MS) for injection have changed the formulation used for the medication. Because of this change, U.S. health care providers have been advised that the intramuscular (IM) and subcutaneous (SQ) routes will no longer be approved for administration of MS.

Because of the change in formulation, MS will no longer be available for IM or SQ injection in the field. To coordinate this change in administration of MS, effective November 1, 2012, the IM and SQ route will no longer be acceptable for the administration of MS in the Orange County EMS system.

Standing orders that will be affected by this change include:

- SO-C-15 Chest Pain (adult)
- SO-E-05 Burn (adult)
- SO-E-30 Snake Envenomation
- SO-P-25 Amputation (pediatric)
- SO-P-30 Crush Injury (pediatric)
- SO-P-95 Burn (pediatric)
- SO-T-05 General Trauma
- SO-T-15 Amputation (adult)
- SO-T-20 Crush Injury (adult)

As a result, the intravenous route (IV) will be the only approved method for administration of MS within the Orange County EMS System.

Please contact the Orange County EMS Agency for any questions or comments you may have.

SS:ksh #1540