DATE: November 2, 2018

TO: ORANGE COUNTY EMS DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM: SAM J. STRATTON, MD, MPH
ORANGE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL®) INJECTABLE SHORTAGE

There is currently a national shortage of diphenhydramine solution for intravenous and intramuscular injection. When supply issues for diphenhydramine will be resolved is not currently known.

EMS providers should continue to use current supplies of diphenhydramine based on standing orders and base hospital direction until current supplies are exhausted. Expired diphenhydramine doses should not be used and rather managed as usual for expired medications.

Orange County EMS is working with state authorities to determine if other available antihistamines similar to diphenhydramine can be added to the State Paramedic Scope of Practice.

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