December 21, 2018

TO: ORANGE COUNTY EMS DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

SUBJECT: ONDANSETRON USE IN PREGNANCY

Recent research published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* has shown a small increased risk for oral clefts in children born of mothers exposed to ondansetron (Huybrechts K, et al. *JAMA*. 2018;320(23):2429-2437).

Considering this research finding, use in the field by EMS providers of ondansetron (Zofran®) for control of nausea or vomiting in women who may or are known to be pregnant is to be avoided.

The attached revised standing order (SO-M-60) reflects this system change. Other standing orders including ondansetron will be updated similarly.

SJS/#3395
ALS STANDING ORDERS:

1. If signs of dehydration or poor perfusion and lungs clear to auscultation (no evidence CHF):
   - Establish IV access and give 250 mL Normal Saline bolus, may repeat up to maximum 1 liter to maintain adequate perfusion.

3. For continuous nausea or vomiting, and not known or suspected to be pregnant\(^1\), administer:
   - Ondansetron (Zofran\textsuperscript{™}) 8 mg (two 4 mg ODT tablets) to dissolve orally on inside of cheek as tolerated;
     OR,
     4 mg IV, may repeat 4 mg IV once after approximately 3 minutes for continued or recurrent nausea or vomiting.

3. Maintain airway, suction as necessary.

4. Transport to nearest appropriate ERC (ALS escort if fluids or medication required).

Note #1: Ondanestrone may have an association with oral clefts if administered in the first trimester (Huybrechts K, et al. JAMA. 2018;320(23):2429-2437).