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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
 COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY
 DIRECTOR

CLINICAL BULLETIN			
Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2023-04-26-01	Ketamine Medication Shortage Update		April 26, 2023
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N/A	Maine EMS	MDPB	2
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP Maine EMS Director		Matthew Sholl, MD, MPH State Medical Director

Currently, the US is experiencing another wave of medication shortages. A confluence of factors, including manufacturing interruptions with simultaneous higher-than-usual demand, have made many products harder to acquire. Everything from dextrose and glucagon, to anesthetics and lifesaving emergency medications are being affected. Of particular impact is a shortage of **KETAMINE** in all formulations and sizes.

While manufacturers are working hard to meet demand and production facilities are coming back online, the impact is already being felt in state hospitals and in the Maine EMS system, with many areas already out of supply. Hospitals and EMS Agencies that were initially being allocated only a fraction of what is typically required to care for patients have now stopped getting any supply delivered.

With ketamine being a relatively new addition to the MEMS protocols and formulary, there are already alternatives in place for the indications where ketamine is an option. Fentanyl and midazolam, for the time being, are available and can be used during this time of shortage.

Affected protocols:

- **Blue 6** - Post ETT / BIAD pain control / Sedation
- **Blue 10** - Anxiolysis in CPAP
- **Green 22** - Universal Pain Control
- **Orange 5** - Agitation / Excited Delirium
- **Grey 7** - Anxiety for Hospice Patients

There is **no change** to Maine Pre-Hospital Treatment Protocols. Instead, use the alternative medication (fentanyl or midazolam) as indicated if needed. Please know that your suppliers are working diligently to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

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PHONE: (207) 626-3860

TTY: (207) 287-3659

FAX: (207) 287-6251

With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

Note also, that there has not been any notice of extending expiration dates on these products from the FDA. This shortage could last into early 2024. Please be in contact with your dispensing pharmacy for guidance on disposing of expired medication. Ketamine is a controlled substance and needs to be tracked, and usage/disposal documented carefully.

Maine EMS and the MDPB continue to monitor this situation and will continue to work with agencies as this issue develops. For further questions, please contact Maine EMS Staff at maine.ems@maine.gov or call 207-626-3860. Or you can contact any MDPB member.