

12/01/2021

Dear Sponsored EMS Service Chiefs and Purchasing Officers:

We're reminding all sponsored EMS services to please consult with the Sponsor Hospital prior to purchasing new types or versions of medical equipment intended for patient care delivery. This pre-purchase discussion with the Sponsor Hospital is usually easy and straight forward but is important for a number of reasons including:

- We may provide expert opinion and insights regarding specific equipment choices and configuration.
- The Sponsor Hospital/Medical Director has a regulatory responsibility for "appropriateness of current operating protocols" and "assurance of medical supervision and training of MIC personnel". This includes assuring training on and proper use of medical equipment.
- Prescription devices are being purchased under the Medical Director's license. FDA approval of medical equipment is often based on prior approval of other "substantially similar" equipment and not necessarily how safe or effective the particular device is. The sales representative pitch does not always match up with evidence in the medical literature. Equipment needs to be vetted as medically appropriate and safe prior to purchase/deployment.

We're also providing specific guidance for new purchases of two common categories of medical equipment/supplies:

- New AEDs/Monitor-defibrillators/Automated CPR devices
 - Must have the ability to upload and share all event data with the EMS Agency QA Coordinator and Sponsor Hospital for review
 - If available, real time coaching/feedback on CPR rate/depth/minimizing interruptions should be enabled
 - Other highly desirable features (if available and to consider when choosing between different models):
 - Ability of AED to analyze rhythm while CPR is being performed (minimize interruption in CPR/perishock pause)
 - AED allows CPR to continue while AED is charging (minimizing interruption in CPR/perishock pause)
 - Associated software for post-call analysis of CPR quality and improvement opportunities (e.g. calculating compression fraction, etc.)
 - Compatibility with/adapters for other EMS Services' AEDs/Monitors

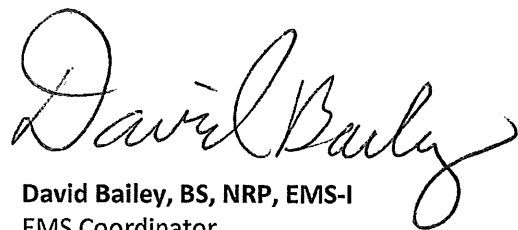
- Medications
 - Only medications listed on the Hartford Hospital approved EMS formulary may be purchased and placed in service. The formulary may be updated based on protocol changes and/or Sponsored EMS Service needs/requests.
 - When purchasing medications, every effort should be made to limit the amount of drug supplied per container to that which is expected to be administered in a single dose (i.e. unit dose) so as to reduce the risk of dose errors / overdose.
 - The amount and concentration of drug in vials/ampules/packageing should be kept uniform. If a change in formulation (e.g. amount supplied, concentration, etc.) is required, all affected clinicians must be aware of the change and engineering controls should be considered to reduce errors (additional labeling, etc.)

We remain committed to partnering with all our sponsored EMS services to assure safe and quality prehospital patient care delivery in a fiscally responsible manner. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or needs that we may assistance with.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Johndro D.O.
System EMS Medical Director, Hartford Healthcare
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Emergency Medicine and Traumatology
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Attending Physician
Hartford Hospital, Emergency Medicine
Email: Charles.johndro@hhhealth.org
Office: (860) 972-0952



David Bailey, BS, NRP, EMS-I
EMS Coordinator
Hartford Hospital
Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Email: David.Bailey@hhhealth.org
Office: (860) 972-1180