

July 19, 2017

DSHS Drug Shortage Statement

DSHS is aware of drug shortages within Texas and the nation. Some of these drugs are being used to treat patients in the prehospital setting by emergency medical services providers.

If the department receives a complaint that a provider is using expired drugs or expired drugs are found on an ambulance during an inspection, the department will require the EMS organization to provide documentation from the manufacturer and the provider's medical director regarding the shortage of the specific drug(s) before considering any enforcement action.

DSHS is recommending that the documentation is on an ambulance that has expired drug(s) approved and dated by the EMS Provider medical director.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration maintains an extensive website for information on this topic at the following link. <https://www.ashp.org/drug-shortages/current-shortages/drug-shortages-list?page=CurrentShortages>

Working together the Texas EMS system will get through this drug shortage event and any future events. If you have additional questions, please contact your regional EMS office or the Office of EMS/Trauma Coordination.

Regional EMS Offices

Central 512-834-6700

South: 210-949-2050

East: 713-767-3333

North: 817-264-4720

Office of EMS/Trauma: 512-834-6737