

February 3, 2022

DSHS Drug Shortage Statement

As the challenges to provide EMS in Texas continue, the office of EMS/Trauma Systems is aware of the National and Texas drug shortages and medical supplies issues. Some of these drugs and supplies are being used to treat patients in the prehospital setting by emergency medical services (EMS) 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 provider's medical director regarding the shortage of the specific drug(s) or supplies before considering any additional action.

The office of EMS/Trauma Systems is recommending that documentation is carried on the vehicle that has expired drug(s) and/or supplies approved for usage by the EMS provider's medical director, to include a date of approval.

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>.

The office staff has brought these issues to the attention of the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration (NTHSA) office of EMS. Working together, the Texas EMS system will get through the many challenges we are all facing daily. If you have additional questions, please contact your regional EMS office or the office of EMS/Trauma Systems, or email questions to: EMSInfo@dshs.texas.gov.