



The Pre-Hospital Healthcare Team
for
Saginaw and Tuscola Counties

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February 10, 2011

MEMORANDUM #2011-2

FOR ALL SVMCA PHARMACIES AND EMS AGENCIES

***** MEDICATION ALERT *****

FROM: SVMCA Pharmacy and Therapeutics Chairperson

SUBJECT: **Nitroglycerin Drip Concentrations in EMS Boxes**

Today, an EMS box was received by a system pharmacy for restocking and found to contain a nitroglycerin drip with a concentration of 50mg in 500ml. Currently, the SVMCA uses a nitroglycerin concentration of 50mg in 250ml (200mcg/ml). Boxes that contain nitroglycerin bottles mixed with 500ml of fluid will have half the normal concentration and thus require double the normal infusion rate to achieve the same effect as the 200mcg/ml bottles. Unfortunately, the label identifying the pharmacy last stocking the box last was removed before it was turned in and we cannot reliably determine where the incorrect bottle was placed.

FOR ALL SVMCA PHARMACIES:

When restocking any SVMCA EMS boxes, ensure that the concentration is the correct 200mcg/ml (50mg in 250ml). If you find any bottles that are incorrect, please replace them and report it to the SVMCA.

FOR SVMCA ALS PROVIDERS

As always, ensure that the *5 Rights* of medication administration are followed for every patient:

1. Right Patient
2. Right Route
3. Right Dose
4. Right Time
5. Right Medication

If a nitroglycerin drip bottle is found to be 50mg in 500ml, the medication may be used but the rate of infusion adjusted to compensate for the decrease in concentration. Report any discrepancies found to your supervisor.

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