

South Plains Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

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Bailey
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Howard
Kent
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Motley
Scurry
Terry
Yoakum

January 15, 2012

TO: SPEMS EMS Services
SUBJECT: SPEMS EMT-PARAMEDIC PROTOCOL VARIANCE

With the ongoing medication shortages, Valium, Ativan and Versed may be unavailable. Conservation of stock should be exercised.

Please let this letter serve as your authority to ration benzodiazepine use until Valium, Ativan or Versed are available from your supplier.

The recommendation is to use benzodiazepine for multiple or status seizures lasting greater than 2 minutes. You should refrain from using benzodiazepine for brief uncomplicated seizures lasting less than 2 minutes. The paramedic can exercise sound judgment and supersede these recommendations. For all seizure patients rapidly transport to closest appropriate facility without delay.

This is a temporary variance and strictly to be used when Valium, Ativan, and Versed are unavailable from the supplier and you are in short supply.

Ultimately, rationing the medication is preferred until all of your supply is exhausted. In the event that you are out of stock and are unable to obtain Valium, Ativan or Versed, let this letter serve as your authority to not carry a benzodiazepine. Evidence of backorder from your supplier must accompany this variance for it to be valid.

You will need to place a copy of this letter in each protocol book in each ambulance.

Sincerely,

E. Joe Sasin
Medical Director