

SUBJECT: **DISASTER PHARMACEUTICAL CACHES  
CARRIED BY FIRST RESPONDERS**

(PARAMEDIC/EMT-I)  
REFERENCE NO. 1104

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PURPOSE: To ensure accessibility to and accountability for disaster pharmaceutical caches carried by first responders.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Chapter 5, Section 1798  
Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 72369

PRINCIPLE:

To ensure terrorism preparedness in Los Angeles County, the Emergency Medical Services Authority approved an expanded scope of practice for paramedics to stock and use certain disaster pharmaceuticals.

POLICY:

I. Disaster Pharmaceutical Cache (DPC) for Patient Use:

A. Quantity

Each DPC will contain the following pharmaceuticals:

Mark 1 kits: a minimum of 30 auto injectors for treatment of patients  
Amyl nitrite: a minimum of 36 ampules for treatment of patients  
Atropen 1.0 mg: a minimum of 12 for treatment of patients  
Pediatric Atropen 0.5 mg: a minimum of 12 for treatment of patients

B. Procurement

1. Initial stocking of all two paramedic vehicles with a DPC was completed in 2002, by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency.
2. DPC re-supply and initial stocking of additional two-paramedic units will be through the Provider Agency purchasing entity and its medical advisor.

C. Disaster Pharmaceutical Cache Security

1. Paramedics assigned to an ALS unit shall be responsible for maintaining the correct DPC inventory for their assigned unit at all times.
2. Amyl nitrite, Mark I kits and Atropens for patient use will be stored in the locked DPC case.

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EFFECTIVE: 9-1-03  
REVISED: 11-15-07  
SUPERSEDES: 4-1-06

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APPROVED:   
Director, EMS Agency

  
Medical Director, EMS Agency

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- a. The DPC will be inventoried with other controlled drugs on a daily basis.
  - b. The inventory will consist of verifying the lock number on the DPC case and recording the number on Reference No. 702.2, Daily Controlled Drug and Key Inventory Form, or its equivalent.
  - c. Whenever the lock is changed, broken or the lock number does not match the previous recorded lock number; a manual count of the DPC contents shall be conducted and recorded.
  - d. Any discrepancies in the drug count shall be reported to the paramedic coordinator, the EMS Agency, and the issuing agent (the Provider Agency Medical Advisor or other authorized physician) by completing Reference No. 702.1, Missing/Expired Controlled Drug Pharmacy Reporting Form, or its equivalent.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Ref. No. 519, **Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents**  
Ref. No. 701, **Supply and Resupply of Designated EMS Provider Units/Vehicles**  
Ref. No. 702, **Controlled Drugs Carried On ALS Units**  
Ref. No. 702.1, **Missing/Expired Controlled Drug Pharmacy Reporting Form**  
Ref. No. 702.2, **Daily Controlled Drug and Key Inventory Form**  
Ref. No. 807, **Medical Control During Hazardous Material Exposure**  
Ref. No. 1106, **Mobilization of Local Pharmaceutical Caches (LPCs)**  
Ref. No. 1108, **CHEMPACK Deployment for Nerve Agent Release**

Medical Guidelines:

Base Hospital Treatment Guidelines, **E3, Hazardous Chemical Agent Emergency**  
Communication Failure Protocols, **E3, Hazardous Chemical Agent Emergency**