DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **SUPPLY AND RESUPPLY OF DESIGNATED EMS PROVIDER UNITS/VEHICLES**

(PARAMEDIC)
REFERENCE NO. 701

PURPOSE: To provide a policy for 9-1-1 provider agencies to procure, store and distribute medical supplies and pharmaceuticals identified in the ALS Unit Inventory that require specific physician authorization.

AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, Division 10, California Uniform Controlled Substances Act; and Division 2.5, Chapter 5, Section 1798.
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 4, Article 6, Section 100169;

DEFINITION:

Restricted Drugs and Devices: Drugs and devices bearing the legend, "Caution, federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription," or "Federal Law restricts this device to sale by or the order of a physician," or words of similar import.

POLICY:

I. Responsibilities of Provider Agencies

A. Each provider agency shall have a mechanism to procure, store and distribute its own restricted drugs and devices under the license and supervision of a physician who meets one of the following criteria:

1. The Medical Director of the provider agency. Medical Director must meet the requirements specified in Ref. No. 411, Provider Agency Medical Director.

2. The Medical Director of the EMS Agency.

3. The Base Hospital Medical Director of the provider agency's assigned base hospital.

4. A drug authorizing physician who is licensed in the State of California and meets the criteria outlined in Ref. No. 410, Drug Authorizing Physician for Provider Agencies.

NOTE: Regardless of option selected, the provider agency shall furnish the EMS Agency with written concurrence from the respective physician that they will assume responsibility for providing medical authorization for procuring restricted drugs and devices.

APPROVED: _____ _____
Director, EMS Agency Medical Director, EMS Agency

B. Mechanisms of procurement may include the following:

1. Procurement of restricted drugs and devices through a County-sponsored or other group buying arrangement, if feasible.

2. Procurement of restricted drugs and devices from a hospital that determines it has the legal authority to resell pharmaceuticals and supplies to a provider agency.

3. Procurement of restricted drugs and devices through another legally authorized source, including but not limited to, a pharmaceutical distributor or wholesaler.

C. Each provider agency shall have policies and procedures in place for the procurement, transport, storage, distribution and disposal of restricted drugs and devices. These policies shall be reviewed by the local EMS Agency and shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Identification (by title) of individuals responsible for procurement and distribution.

2. A determination of reasonable quantities of supplies and pharmaceuticals that must be maintained to resupply ALS units between deliveries by distributor.

3. Maintenance of copies of all drug orders, invoices, and logs associated with restricted drugs and devices for a minimum of three years.

4. Procedures for completing a monthly inventory, which includes:

a. Ensuring medications are stored in original packaging;

b. Checking medications for expiration dates, rotating stock for use prior to expiration, and exchanging for current medications.

c. Properly disposing of expired medications that cannot be exchanged.

d. Accounting for restricted drugs and devices in stock and/or distributed to ALS units and other transport units.

e. Returning medications to the pharmaceutical distributor if notified of a recall.

5. Storage of drugs (other than those carried on the ALS unit itself) that complies with the following:

a. Drugs must be stored in a locked cabinet or storage area.

b. Drugs may not be stored on the floor. (Storage of drugs on pallets is acceptable.)

c. Antiseptics and disinfectants must be stored separately from internal and injectable medications.

d. Flammable substances, e.g., alcohol, must be stored in accordance with local fire codes.

e. Storage area is maintained within a temperature range that will maintain the integrity, stability and effectiveness of drugs.

6. A mechanism for procuring, storing, distributing and accounting for morphine and midazolam consistent with the requirements outlined in Ref. No. 702, Controlled Drugs Carried on ALS Units.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:
Ref. No. 410, **Drug Authorizing Physician for Provider Agencies**
Ref. No. 411, **Provider Agency Medical Advisor**
Ref. No. 702, **Controlled Drugs Carried on ALS Units**
Ref. No. 703, **ALS Unit Inventory**
Ref. No. 704, **Assessment Unit Inventory**