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TO: Maryland EMS Providers

FROM: Richard Alcorta, MD, FACEP *Richard Alcorta M.D.*

DATE: May 18, 2012

RE: Emergent Addition of Diazepam for Active Seizure Management

As the shortage of Midazolam goes on and EMS Operational Programs (EMSOPs) continue to have trouble stocking the medication, MIEMSS has inserted Diazepam into the ALS provider's armamentarium for the management of active seizures.

You may recall that, before being replaced by Midazolam in 2009, Diazepam was the medication used by Maryland ALS providers to treat patients with active seizures. Effective immediately, ALS providers are authorized to administer Diazepam to active seizure patients as written in the attached protocol, if Midazolam is not available.

This change in protocol does not absolve the EMSOP's responsibility to restock Midazolam when it becomes available; Midazolam is still the preferred medication for active seizure management. This change in protocol does empower ALS providers to provide ALS care to active seizure patients when the first-line medication is not available.

Please contact the Office of the Medical Director at 410-706-0880 or ralcorta@miemss.org/jkelly@miemss.org with any questions.