

Department of Health Services

Timothy W. Lutz
Director



County of Sacramento

Divisions

Administration
Behavioral Health
Primary Health
Public Health

Date: June 12, 2025

To: All Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency
(SCEMSA) Stakeholders

From: Dr. Gregory Kann, SCEMSA Medical Director

Subject: Critical Amiodarone Shortage – ALS Transporting Units

Due to the critical shortage of Amiodarone that some agencies are experiencing, SCEMSA is issuing a Critical Amiodarone Shortage guidelines for the use of Lidocaine if you are unable to procure Amiodarone. Lidocaine may be used where Amiodarone is considered for Adult Cardiac Dysrhythmias (PD# 8024) Non-Traumatic Cardiac Arrest (PD# 8031) and Pediatric Medical Cardiac Arrest (PD# 9006). Use of Lidocaine must meet the same criteria for use of Amiodarone by SCEMSA policies.

****During the shortage, SCEMSA will not require Non-Transporting ALS Units to stock amiodarone or lidocaine.**

Requirement for use of Lidocaine in place of Amiodarone:

- Monitor and report to SCEMSA every use of Lidocaine.

Guideline for use of Lidocaine:

Cardiac Arrest from Ventricular Tachycardia (VT) or Ventricular Fibrillation (VF)

- Initial dose: 1 mg/kg IV/IO.
- For refractory VF may give additional 1 mg/kg IV push, repeat in 5 to 10 minutes; maximum 3 doses or total of 3 mg/kg.

Perfusing Arrhythmia:

For stable VT, wide complex tachycardia of uncertain type

- Initial dose 1 mg/kg.
- May repeat 0.5 mg/kg every 5-10 minutes with maximum total dose of 3 mg/kg.

Lidocaine Shortage:

If your agency does not have the amount of Lidocaine needed, close to expiring, or unable to procure, please contact Jenna Alexander at alexanderjen@saccounty.gov or (916)268-0417.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Gregory Kann", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Kann MD FACEP
Medical Director
Sacramento County EMS Agency