



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

24-015

February 7, 2024

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Controlled Substance Manager Burton

SUBJECT: Midazolam (Versed)

Last year, we alerted you to a national shortage of midazolam (Versed) affecting UFA's ability to obtain this medication. Unfortunately, the shortage is continuing and expected to last over the next year. EMS agencies are being forced to utilize different concentrations of midazolam and some agencies are changing to different, more available medications. UFA has been able to secure midazolam from our vendor in a multi dose vial. This new vial is the same concentration we are currently using at 5 mg/mL, but instead of 1 mL vials, the vials will now have 10 mL.

What this means for you as a provider:

- The new vials of midazolam will be marked with an orange sticker identifying them as "Multi-dose Vial". They are also larger in size than the current vials.
- The new vial is a multi-dose vial, but it should NEVER be used for multiple patients. You can draw up and use more than one dose for one patient if needed, but after that patient, the vial should be wasted.
- Midazolam should be reserved for seizure patients. We have three other options for pain management and no other options for seizures.
- Only draw up the amount you intend to administer at that time. This should be the same mL amount in either the single dose or the multi-dose vial.
- Utilize your partners on scene to verify your medication rights, check which vial of medication you are using and ensure you are giving the correct medication and amount. With two different vials of the same medication in our system, we must be extra vigilant we are correctly dosing and treating our patients.
- If you identify a medication error, it should be immediately reported to the receiving facility, your station Captain, and the EMS Division On Call number. We have no reversal agent for Midazolam, so treatment of a higher than normal dose until you get to the hospital is ventilatory support and other supportive care measures based on signs and symptoms.
- More wasted medication means more medication that can fall into the wrong hands. Please make sure you are utilizing proper waste procedures and the medication you are wasting is not retrievable and is witnessed by another provider. If you see or suspect any unauthorized use of Midazolam or improper wasting or documentation, please report this immediately to your Captain and the controlled substance manager.

Remember, Midazolam is our primary treatment for seizure patients. Due to this shortage, midazolam should be reserved primarily for seizure patients and alternative treatments should be considered, per provider discretion, for pain management or other approved uses when alternate medications are available.

The new vial is a multi-dose vial, NOT a multi-patient vial.

A training video is available on VectorSolutions LMS with additional information.

Please contact the EMS Division On-Call representative with any questions or concerns.

