



SENECA COUNTY

Emergency Medical Service



Subject: Medication Bag Control and Exchange

Reference Number: 34

Effective Date: March 1st, 2008

Revision Date: January 5, 2010

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a method of control and exchange for the medication bags that are carried by Seneca County EMS ambulances.

Background:

The Seneca County Medication Bag Exchange program was developed in 2008 to ease the burden of monthly inventory and to decrease the cost associated with replacing expired medications. Through an agreement with Mercy Health Partners Pharmacy and Seneca County EMS we are able to maintain a secure, legal, simple, and cost effective method of medication tracking and maintenance.

Policy & Procedure

The Seneca County EMS med bag shall be secured in the locked medication compartment in each ambulance at all times when not in use.

The green tamper proof seal that is applied by the pharmacist will have the date of the first expiring med in the compartment inscribed on the seal. Green tamper proof seals shall only be placed by the pharmacist.

If the medication bag is accessed for patient use, a medication exchange sheet shall be completed by the EMT-I or Medic and secured within the compartment that the medication was utilized from. A copy of the hospital facesheet and patient care report shall be placed in the compartment as well. The compartment shall then be sealed with a red tag, and the EMS office shall be contacted to exchange the bag. If a single med is used and there are multiples of it, the bag can wait until the bag expires to be exchanged.

If the EMT-B compartment is accessed (right side compartment) and only Aspirin or Nitroglycerin is used, the compartment shall be secured with a RED seal with the date of the first expiring medication inscribed (the same applies to the Albuterol Nebulizer (left side) compartment).

The medication bag should be checked monthly to ascertain if either compartment is expiring. The seal should be checked. If the date on the seal is set to expire in the present month, contact the EMS office to have the bag exchanged as soon as possible.

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