MEDICAL CONTROL GUIDELINE: MEDICATION ORDERS / ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPLES:

1. A complete and accurate medication order is essential for patient care.

2. Closed-loop communication (repeating orders back to the base hospital and to paramedic partner) reduces medication errors.

GUIDELINES:

1. Base hospitals must provide complete medication and fluid orders to include:
   a. Name of medication
   b. Dose (mg and mL to be delivered)
   c. Route of administration per L.A. County protocols
      i. Intravenous (IV)
      ii. Intramuscular (IM)
      iii. Intranasal (IN)
      iv. Intraosseous (IO)
      v. Nebulized (via neb)
      vi. Orally Disintegrating Tablet (ODT)
      vii. Per Os/Oral (PO)
      viii. Rapid infusion (IV/IO) – fluid administration as quickly as possible
      ix. Slow IV/IO push – dose administered over 60 seconds
      x. Sublingual (SL)
   d. Frequency of administration, if applicable

2. Paramedics shall repeat complete orders back to the base hospital.

3. Pro re nata (PRN) orders should have indications for administration.