PURPOSE: To ensure accessibility to and accountability for disaster pharmaceutical caches carried by authorized Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Chapter 5, Section 1798
Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 72369

PRINCIPLE:

To ensure terrorism preparedness in Los Angeles County, the Emergency Medical Services Authority approved an expanded scope of practice for paramedics to stock and use certain disaster pharmaceuticals.

POLICY:

I. Disaster Pharmaceutical Cache (DPC) for Patient Use:

   A. Pharmaceuticals

      DuoDote Kits or their equivalent: a minimum of 9 auto injectors

   B. Procurement

      1. DPC stocking and re-supply of two-paramedic units will be through the provider agency’s purchasing entity and medical director.

      2. DPC re-supply and initial stocking of additional two-paramedic units will be through the provider agency purchasing entity and its medical director.

      3. If additional nerve agent antidotes are required during an incident, request the deployment of an EMS CHEMPACK (Ref. No. 1108) via the Medical Alert Center at (562) 378-1789. Provide the MAC with the following information:

         a. Incident location;

         b. Chemical agent (if known);

         c. Number and severity of victims; and

         d. Chief complaints of patients.

   C. Disaster Pharmaceutical Cache Security
1. Paramedics assigned to an ALS unit shall be responsible for maintaining the correct DPC inventory for their assigned unit at all times.

2. DuoDotes (or their equivalent) shall be stored in the DPC case.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Manual:

Ref. No. 519, Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents
Ref. No. 701, Supply and Resupply of Designated EMS Provider Units/Vehicles
Ref. No. 703, ALS Unit Inventory
Ref. No. 807, Medical Control During Hazardous Material Exposure
Ref. No. 1106, Mobilization of Local Pharmaceutical Caches (LPCs)
Ref. No. 1108, CHEMPACK Deployment for Nerve Agent Release
Ref. No. 1225, Nerve Agent Exposure