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"To advance the health of our communities by ensuring quality emergency and disaster medical services."



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

April 16, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: See Distribution

FROM: **Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD**
Medical Director, Los Angeles County EMS Agency

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 UPDATE # 9: Ketorolac Implementation**

This is to notify you of changes to the planned implementation of ketorolac use by EMS providers in LA County.

Ketorolac remains approved for use in LA County under Local Optional Scope. However, Provider Agencies will not be required to stock this medication until further notice.

Given the theoretical concern regarding the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) exacerbating symptoms in patients with COVID-19, we have updated Medical Control Guidelines 1317.22 Drug Reference - Ketorolac and 1345 Pain Management with instruction to avoid use of ketorolac in patients with suspected COVID-19.

Given the current widespread outbreak, we do not advise the use of ketorolac at this time.

It is important to note that there is no scientific evidence demonstrating harm with the use of NSAIDs in patients with COVID-19. At this time, it is safer to avoid NSAIDs until their effects in COVID-19 are better understood.

Once the current pandemic has improved, we will determine the deadline for the stocking of ketorolac and provide additional guidance on its use. Although training on the administration of ketorolac is included in EMS Update 2020, we will provide a refresher training for EMS providers in advance of the new implementation date.

Attachments: MCG 1317.22, MCG 1345

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