



EMS Special Memorandum - #17-001

Date: February 24, 2017

To: Mendocino/ Sonoma County EMS Providers and System Stakeholders

From: Bryan Cleaver
Regional EMS Administrator

Mark Luoto, MD
Regional EMS Medical Director

Re: Removal of Furosemide from Coastal Valleys EMS Optional Scope

Under current California Code of Regulations (CCR) furosemide is not on the list of medications approved by The California EMS Authority (EMSA) in statewide paramedic scope of practice. At the time furosemide was removed from statewide scope of practice, EMSA allowed retention of furosemide in local optional scope if requested by the Local EMS Agency. Coastal Valleys EMS Agency (CVEMSA) asked to retain furosemide as an optional scope of practice therapy. CVEMSA was approved to retain furosemide in local optional scope for a three-year period, subject to review by EMSA at end of the approval period. EMSA has now asked CVEMSA to renew the request for furosemide as optional scope of practice, including a justification for continued use of the medication within the local EMS system.

Since furosemide was moved from basic to optional scope of practice, usage within CVEMSA has been limited to a subset of patients with extended transport times exceeding one hour. Usage under the current restrictive guidelines has been low. Additionally, no clear benefit has been shown from maintaining the medication on an optional scope basis. Risks associated with furosemide administration remain a concern, particularly the risks to patients with pneumonia. Based on those findings, CVEMSA does not intend to renew the request for furosemide under optional scope of practice, due to the lack of justification for such an approval.

Therefore, effective April 1, 2017, furosemide will no longer be approved for administration by paramedics within the Coastal Valleys EMS Region. Supplies of the medication should be removed from EMS provider agency inventory and not carried by CVEMSA responders after that date.