



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
152 COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE 1  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0152



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**MAINE EMS  
STANDARD FOR OUT-OF-DRUGBOX DRUG STORAGE  
Revised February 26, 2010**

**1. APPROVED DRUGS**

**A.** The following drugs have been approved for out-of-drugbox storage by the Maine EMS Board:

1. Nitroglycerin
2. Albuterol
3. Dextrose 50% (D50)
4. Aspirin
5. Furosemide
6. Epinephrine (1:1,000 concentration only)
7. Naloxone
8. Epi-pens (Adult and Pedi)
9. Nitroglycerin paste
10. Levalbuterol
11. DuoNeb

**2. GENERAL**

**A.** A service authorized by Board license or permit to handle drugs or medications shall use as the source of drugs and medications a single hospital which has a pharmacy, several hospitals with either individual or central supply points, or some other source approved by the Board . The system of drugs and medications distribution will be overseen by a responsible pharmacist, or by a regional medical director or his/her physician designee.

**B.** A service must have written authorization from the pharmacist (who is responsible for that service's sealed drug box), and the service's medical director, or the regional medical director in order to initiate and maintain out-of-drugbox storage of the drugs listed in section 1, above.

**3. STORAGE OF OUT-OF-DRUGBOX (OOD) DRUGS**

**A.** OOD drugs shall be stored in packaging as dispensed by a pharmacy. Labeling shall include the expiration date of the OOD drug.

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- B. OOD drugs shall be properly stored with provision for reasonable climate control.
- C. OOD drugs shall be stored in an area which provides for limited access (e.g. jumpkit or cabinet).
- D. Each service that is authorized for OOD drug storage under this standard shall maintain a written policy indicating: that service's OOD drug storage locations; and, personnel authorized by that service to receive, handle, and account for OOD drugs as per this standard.

#### **4. ACCOUNTABILITY**

- A. A drug log for each OOD drug storage location, must be kept by the service, indicating:
  - 1. Date and time that an OOD drug container is received by the service and placed in the service's designated OOD drug storage location(s)
  - 2. Use and disposal of OOD drugs including applicable MEMS patient/run record number.
  - 3. Legible signature of person making the log entry.
- C. To assure that OOD drugs have not expired or been tampered with, the integrity of the pharmacy packaging, as approved by the issuing pharmacist, and the expiration date, must be checked at least weekly and recorded in the OOD drug log.
- D. The OOD drug log, the service's written policy for OOD drugs, and the pharmacist's written authorization for OOD drug storage, will be checked at the annual service inspection, or as requested by the Board.

#### **5. PRESCRIBING, ORDERING, AND RECORDING**

- A. The administration of OOD drugs to a patient shall be determined by applicable protocols and recorded on the run report.

#### **6. APPROVAL**

- A. OOD drug storage is approved for Maine EMS services, licensed or permitted at least the Basic Level, that adhere to the requirements as set forth in this standard.
- B. Approved by the Maine EMS Board on April 5, 1995. Other Approvals - D50 on February 19, 1997; Furosemide on August 6, 1997; Epinephrine on June 7, 2000; and Naloxone on June 5, 2002. Nitroglycerin Paste, Levalbuterol and DuoNeb on July 1, 2008.