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Numbered Memo Series 10-01
February 2010

TO: EMS Service Directors
EMS Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers

FROM: Brian Litza, Chief
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Section

SUBJECT: Vecuronium Shortage

It has come to our attention that there is a growing issue with the procurement of Vecuronium. Services are sharing with the office that this medication for rapid sequence intubation (RSI) is becoming more difficult to order. Our research has indicated that it is a manufacturing decision and not a raw material issue as Bertylium was in the past.

In consultation with the state medical director it has been recommended that Rocuronium be substituted for Vecuronium [ZEMURON® (rocuronium bromide)]. If your service is running into availability issues for Vecuronium, this is considered to be a direct patient care concern and needs to be resolved quickly. As being such, service medical directors may make immediate substitutions without waiting for the state office to approve the change.

Any service in this situation should make the immediate substitution with either Rocuronium or another medication as identified by your medical director. Notification and update of the RSI protocol should be submitted to this office as soon as possible. Substitution does not have to wait until our approval is returned to the service. We will keep you updated as further information becomes available.