



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER: 10-06

DATE: October 27 , 2010

SUBJECT: Diltiazem (Cardizem) Shortage

Due to the nationwide shortage of the ALS medication Diltiazem, and MCFRS' resulting inability to obtain it, we requested guidance from the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS) and State Medical Director Dr. Richard Alcorta.

Dr. Alcorta is permitting MCFRS to ***not*** remove from service ALS resources, even if they *lack the required doses of Diltiazem*. *This exception applies **only to Diltiazem***, and is in effect ***temporarily*** until we receive this back-ordered medication.

If Diltiazem is allowed by the base-station physician because the ALS provider considers it beneficial to the patient's outcome, that provider should consider the feasibility of a rendezvous with an ALS unit that still has Diltiazem in its inventory. However, ***at no time should this action cause a delay in patient transport toward the receiving facility.***

If additional information is needed, please call A/C Diane Zuspan at 240-777-2453.

Issued by: Assistant Chief Diane Zuspan