



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary of Health

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**DATE:** March 26, 2008

**TO:** Medical Directors of Licensed Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Providers  
Fire Chiefs  
EMS Chiefs

**SUBJECT:** Distribution of replacement Atropens®

The Florida Department of Health has been tasked by the Florida Domestic Security's Health and Medical Subcommittee to enhance EMS responder safety and health through the replacement distribution of Atropens® to Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ground Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies statewide. Distribution of the Atropens® has been made possible through a Federal Homeland Security Grant.

The goal of the Atropen® antidote replacement distribution is to continue to enhance an EMS agency's ability to treat a known or suspected nerve agent or insecticide poisoning of either the first responders primarily, or an encountered victim secondarily. Atropens®, combined with Mark I Kits™, have been selected by the EMS medical directors from across the state as the preferred antidotes to treat any type of nerve agent and/or insecticide poison exposure.

Participation in the distribution is voluntary. Agencies with ALS ground units will be queried by the Statewide Bureau of Pharmaceutical Services in advance to determine their interest in participating in the distribution. It is understood there will be accompanying education regarding use of the Atropens®.

Each licensed ALS EMS agency will be given three Atropens® 2.0 mg, two Atropens® 1.0 mg and two 0.5 mg Atropens® for each of their permitted vehicles. Of the total Atropens® offered, those that are not accepted by licensed ALS EMS agencies will be then divided among the Urban Area Security Initiative sites. The primary agencies in that city will be offered additional kits.

Enclosed with this letter is prescribing information for the Atropen®. Additional resources will be placed on the State Bureau of EMS website to help familiarize EMS personnel with the product.

In addition to this initiative, funds are available to collect and destroy your expired Atropens®. Please contact Ms. Sara Turner, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, with the Statewide Bureau of Pharmaceutical Services at [sara\\_turner@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:sara_turner@doh.state.fl.us) to initiate this process.

For as long as federal funding is available, future efforts directed toward EMS antidotes will involve sustainment of expiring antidotes.

If you have questions about this project or any other EMS chemical antidote project, please contact Bobby Bailey at 850-251-0743 or at [Bobby\\_Bailey@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Bobby_Bailey@doh.state.fl.us).

Signature on file  
JENNIFER BENCIE FAIRBURN, M.D., M.S.A.  
Director  
Division of Emergency Medical Operations

Enclosure