



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

DATE: January 23, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Distribution of Cyanokits

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 distributing Cyanokit[®] 5g (hydroxocobalamin for injection) *ANTIDOTE* cyanide poisoning treatment kits to Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ground Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies statewide. Distribution of the Cyanokits has been made possible through a Federal Homeland Security Grant.

The goal of the cyanide antidote distribution is to enhance an EMS agency's ability to treat a known or suspected cyanide poisoning of either the first responders primarily, or an encountered victim secondarily. These kits have been selected by the EMS medical directors from across the state as the preferred antidote kit and they can be used to treat any type of cyanide 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 kits.

EMS agencies will have the authority to position the kits as needed to best achieve utilization plans for protection of first responders and potential encountered victims. Placement on ALS permitted vehicles (transport/non-transport), command cars or HazMat vehicles staffed with a paramedic or in centralized locations will vary according to agency size and appropriate protocols.

Regardless of the size of the EMS agency, each agency will be given a minimum of two kits. The primary distribution is determined using a mathematical ratio created by the Department of Health staff in the Statewide Bureau of Pharmaceutical Services and the Office of Emergency Operations (OEO) using data from the Bureau of EMS and the Division of Medical Quality Assurance. This ratio will give guidance for the distribution of approximately 1800 kits. The remainder of the kits, plus the number of kits originally destined for agencies choosing not to participate, 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 Cyanokit[®] as well as a sample treatment protocol. Additional training resources will be placed on the State Bureau of EMS website to help familiarize EMS personnel with the product.

Distribution of the Cyanokit[®] is the last antidote protective measure identified by the State Working Group for EMS to be distributed. 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.

Signature on file
JOE NELSON, DO, MS, FACOEP, FACEP
State EMS Medical Director
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Enclosure