

December 19, 2013

To: All EMS Agencies
From: Michael D. Berg, Manager, Regulation and Compliance
Subject: Drug Kit Storage
Original Issuance: November 1999

This letter is to inform licensed EMS agencies of their requirement(s) in the storage and security of drug kits.

1. All drugs/drug kits (Enhanced/Advanced-EMT/Intermediate/Paramedic kits) must be stored in a fully enclosed, locked compartment when not in use. This includes IV fluids and supplies (needles, syringes, catheters, administration sets, etc) and drugs not supplied by a pharmacy in a sealed drug kit.
2. The locked compartment is defined as:
 - Ground Ambulance – Interior locked compartment with no exterior access. Exterior access to this compartment must be through a separate locked door in addition to the exterior door of the ambulance body.
 - Nontransport Response Vehicle –
 - i. Rescue Vehicle/Fire Engine – Approved locking device attached within the passenger compartment or an exterior compartment, inaccessible by the public.
 - ii. Sedan/Zone Vehicle – Approved locking device attached within the passenger compartment or trunk, inaccessible by the public.
 - iii. Utility Vehicle/Van – Approved locking device attached within the vehicle interior, inaccessible by the public.
 - Approved locking devices shall be of a design that prevents removal and opening of the drug kit. Devices that secure the drug kit by its handle(s) are not acceptable.
3. The Virginia Board of Pharmacy regulations do not permit individual EMS personnel to possess or carry a personal drug kit or drugs for use on patients. Should an agency and Operational Medical Director (OMD) agree EMT level providers and higher should possess or carry oxygen or Epinephrine (EPI) Pens, the agency shall have an appropriate policy and records as required by the Virginia EMS Rules and Regulations and meet all Virginia Board of Pharmacy requirements for storage and security.
4. In all circumstances, drug kits and drugs, including IV fluids, should be stored in a manner that insures protection from temperature, light, motion and moisture extremes.