



Informational Bulletin

Medication Packaging

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Approved By: Kalvyn W. Smith, Fire Rescue Chief

The Fauquier County Fire and Rescue System has some of the most advanced emergency medical protocols in the region. This also requires that our providers maintain an above-average level of diligence to ensuring that our patients are receiving the correct medications. Technician Dunn recently discovered several medication problems while working as a floater. Below you will notice in the picture both Albuterol and a Duo-Neb (combination of Albuterol and Atrovent).

Providers currently operating in Fauquier County and other areas covered by Michael Jenks, MD (Operational Medical Director) are authorized to carry Albuterol in the concentration 2.5mg/3ml, and not a high concentration dosing of 2.5mg/0.5ml. This results in delivery of Albuterol that is six times more concentrated and may deliver the same amount of medication too quickly to obtain the necessary absorption at the end-alveolar level. In the second picture you will notice the presence of a completely different Albuterol packaged 0.25mg/3ml, or one-tenth of the normal medication delivered. Also, in this picture note the Duo-Neb with Albuterol and Atrovent combined. This also is not in the current protocols and would negate a provider's ability to use discretion and administer Albuterol alone and may prevent administration of any medication to the asthmatic patient that has an allergy to Atrovent.

It is imperative that all providers operating in the system check all medications obtained from the hospital AND prior to administration.



Questions regarding this informational bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief Rob Smith.