



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: MA Licensed Ambulance Services  
CC: EMCAB Members  
FROM: Jon Burstein, State EMS Medical Director  
Abdullah Rehayem, Director  
DATE: January 12, 2012  
RE: Ondansetron shortage

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The Department of Public Health/Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has become aware of a shortage of parenteral Ondansetron. If an ambulance service cannot obtain parenteral Ondansetron, then it may use Ondansetron oral meltaways in the same dose as a substitute for parenteral Ondansetron. Note that the sublingual form of Ondansetron may only be given to a patient able to handle oral medications, i.e. conscious and protecting the airway.

If you have any further questions, please contact please email Patricia Reilly, RN, OEMS Clinical Coordinator, by phone at 617-753-7318 or email [patricia.reilly@state.ma.us](mailto:patricia.reilly@state.ma.us).