	SOUTHERN FOX VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM POLICY & PROCEDURES
TITLE: MEDICATION SECURITY AND STORAGE	
SECTION: GENERAL	POLICY NUMBER: D-48.0
APPROVED BY: DR. ARTHUR PROUST EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR	
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PURPOSE:

To define the storage requirements of EMS equipment and medications stored on licensed EMS vehicles within the Southern Fox Valley EMS System (SFVEMSS).

POLICY:

1) Drugs and pharmacologics shall be stored per the manufacturer's recommendations in a safe environment, and in an area that is not accessible by the public from the time of receipt to the point of use or disposal.

2) EMS personnel are responsible for the security of all drugs and pharmacologics while they are in their possession.

3) EMS vehicles shall be inventoried daily to ensure that drugs and pharmacologics are of suitable quality, quantity, sterility, concentration, formulation and within expiration dates.

4) CLIMATE CONTROL

   a) Any place where medications are stored shall be sufficiently climate-controlled so that the medications and solutions are kept within the temperature range recommended by the manufacturer.

   b) Standards for medications are set by the United States Pharmacopeial Convention Inc. (USP), a nongovernmental entity that establishes standards intended to ensure the quality of medicines and other healthcare technologies. The role of USP and its "National Formulary" (USP-NF) is recognized under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, including their authority to prescribe the packaging, storage, and distribution of medications.

   c) Most medications used by EMS are intended for storage at "controlled room temperature". "A temperature maintained thermostatically that encompasses the usual and customary working environment of 20°-25° C (68°-77° F) that results in a mean kinetic temperature calculated to be not more than 25° C; and that allows for excursions between 15°-30° C (59°-86° F) that are experienced in pharmacies, hospitals, and warehouses. Provided the mean kinetic temperature remains in the allowed range, transient spikes up to 40° C are permitted, as long as they do not

exceed 24 hours. Spikes above 40° C may be permitted if the manufacturer so instructs. Articles may be labeled for storage at “controlled room temperature” or at up to 25° C (86° F), or other wording based on the same mean kinetic temperature. The mean kinetic temperature is a calculated value that may be used as an isothermal storage temperature that simulates the nonisothermal effects of storage temperature variations.

5) Warming recommendations for intravenous (IV) solutions in plastic bags:

a) IV solutions of volumes 150 mL or greater should be warmed in their plastic overpouches to temperatures not exceeding 40°C (104°F), and for a period no longer than 14 days.

b) Label bags with warming expiration date before placing in the warmer.

c) Once the IV fluids have been in the warming cabinet for their maximum time period, remove the container from the warming cabinet and identify as having been warmed. They should not be subsequently returned to the warmer.

d) They may continue to be used until the labeled expiration date from the manufacturer provided they have not been warmed more than once (Baxter, 2015).