



# Arkansas Department of Health

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**Governor Mike Beebe**

**Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer**

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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** All Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services

**FROM:** Greg Brown, EMS Section Chief

**SUBJECT:** Issues regarding narcotics and upcoming Inspections

**DATE:** July 3, 2014

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Recently the Section of EMS (Section), Arkansas Department of Health Pharmacy Services (ADHPS) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have been working together to address deficiencies of state and federal policies and procedures regarding narcotic usage, tracking, reconciliation, storage and potential diversion issues our Licensed Emergency Medical Services, specifically Section XIV. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals of the EMS Rules and Regulations.

Starting on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Section will begin unannounced inspections of our licensed ALS Services. The Section will be looking at all service policies and procedures that pertain to tracking, usage, storage, disposal and administration of all narcotics.

The purpose of these inspections is to help our ALS Services identify areas of improvement regarding the tracking, usage, storage, disposal and administration of narcotics. It is important for our Services to understand that these are not conducted to be punitive, but rather to

better educate and otherwise improve adherence to all regulations surrounding narcotics. That being said, any violations that are identified as significant, as defined to us by the DEA, will be reported to Service Medical Director, DEA and ADHPS for their review. All issues regarding policies and procedures will be reported to the Service Medical Director and Service Owner/Operator.

It is crucial that all ALS Services understand that the DEA holds your Medical Director responsible for any and all violations surrounding the tracking, usage, storage, disposal and administration of narcotics of the Service and any subsequent fines or sanctions related to those violations will be directed toward that Medical Director. It is important that all services consider having a QA process, involving your Medical Director, in place that addresses potential issues with narcotics.

Attached to this email is a frequently asked questions document that was created with the assistance of the DEA and ADHPS addressing the tracking, usage, storage, disposal and administration of all narcotics. It is paramount that all services read, understand and implement the guidance found within this document.

Should you have any questions or concerns in reference to the inspection process or the FAQ document please contact Helen Huitt, Licensure and Compliance Administrator at [helen.huitt@arkansas.gov](mailto:helen.huitt@arkansas.gov) or 501-661-2262.