



Central New York Regional Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

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September 7, 2009

To: EMS ALS Providers

EMS Agency Medical Directors CNYEMS REMAC Physicians

From: Daniel J. Olsson, DO, FACOEP Regional Medical Director - Central New York

Re: Haldol

There has been significant angst and concern regarding the administration of Haldol (Haloperidol) as outlined on page 33 of the 2009 Protocol Handbook.

The Central New York Regional Protocols completed the Protocol Approval Process. This process included approval at the local REMAC level and state SEMAC level. Additionally, the thirty (30) day review and comment period by Emergency Department, Hospital Executives and Agencies was completed without any concerns raised regarding the use of Haloperidol.

Haloperidol is available in three (3) preparations/forms: Haldol, Haldol Decanoate, and Haldol lactate. Haldol Decanoate is the long acting form and is only for IM use due to the suspension vehicle. Haloperidol as Haldol has FDA approval for IM use, however, the FDA does report its frequent use "off label" for Intravenous use ("there is considerable evidence that the intravenous administration of Haloperidol is a relatively common off-label clinical practice") See *enclosures*.

Field providers need to be cognizant of the specific preparations of Haloperidol they receive from their pharmacies and administer accordingly. Should an Agency Medical Director wish to narrow the administration of Haloperidol to intramuscular only, they may do so.

Haloperidol, as many other drugs, is not risk free and always carries a potential for side effects. These medications should only be given when the situation truly warrants and under the utmost care and close observation/monitoring.

The Central New York Region is not alone with this drug and protocol. The Monroe-Livingston (protocol sec. 2.7; 6.17) and the Finger Lakes (protocol

sec. 2.5) Regions have similar IM / IV administrations of Haloperidol.

Finally, just because a medication such as Haloperidol is on the ambulance, does not



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mean that it HAS to be given.

Enc: Heart Rhythm Problems with Haloperidol
Haloperidol FDA Alert
Haloperidol FDA Warning
Haldol Warning