

Standard Operating Procedure 009

CARRIAGE OF DRUG PREPARATIONS AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE STRENGTHS

Background

Errors, at times fatal, have been reported as a result of inadvertent overdosage due to the availability of different strengths of certain drug preparations(*)

Concerns have particularly been raised over the following drugs frequently used in pre-hospital care

Morphine:	Available in 10, 15, 20 & 30mg/ml (Ampoules may contain 10-60mg)
Diamorphine	Available in ampoules of 5, 10, 30, 100 and 500mg.
Midazolam	Available in 1mg, 2mg & 5mg/ml. (Ampoules may contain 10-50mg)
Ketamine	Available in 10mg, 50mg and 100mg/ml (Vials may contain 200 – 1000mg)

Procedure for Stocking of These Preparations:

SAVES doctors will carry only ampoules or vials of **one** strength and volume of each of the above drugs for use in their immediate care work

These preparations will be:

Morphine:	10mg/ml , Presented in 1ml ampoules (can be diluted for administration)
Diamorphine:	5mg ampoule (for dilution with sterile water for administration)
Midazolam	2mg/ml Presented as 5ml (10mg) ampoule
Ketamine:	10mg/ml Presented in 20ml (200mg) vials

No other strength or volume should be carried in the doctor's immediate care equipment. If a SAVES doctor is required to carry other preparations of these medications for use in other roles (for example palliative care) these must be carried in a separate container clearly marked.

All doctors carrying parenteral opiates should also carry adequate supplies of injectable naloxone.

*NPSA Safe Practice Note; 25 May 2006 and NPSA Rapid Response Note; 25 May 2006