

April 4, 2020

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The Greater New York metropolitan area is now the global epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 113,000 confirmed cases and at least 2,900 deaths associated with the disease. New Jersey has documented more than 29,000 cases with over 600 deaths. Use of essential medications for ventilated patients in the ICU has spiked as COVID-19 patient surge builds, and demand is outpacing supply and exhausting current allocations. As our region is still 10-14 days from anticipated peak demand, our needs have become all the more dire and with transfer and growth of COVID-19 positive patients to other parts of the State, this need is quickly expanding this urgency statewide. Supplies freed up by the cessation of elective surgeries are not sufficient to match the intense critical illness of COVID-19 patients. **Hospitals in New York and Northern New Jersey are rapidly exhausting all available supply of critical medications** from manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and other suppliers.

We greatly appreciate the release of ventilators necessary to keep patients alive. However, **these ventilators will be rendered useless without an adequate supply of the medications** – including opioids (e.g., fentanyl, morphine, hydromorphone), sedatives (e.g., midazolam, propofol), and neuromuscular blocking agents (e.g., cisatracurium, vecuronium, rocuronium, succinylcholine) – that must be administered together with mechanical ventilation in critically ill patients, including those with COVID-19, to ensure the successful use of this life-saving supportive care.

On behalf of New York and New Jersey hospitals, the Greater New York Hospital Association, the Healthcare Association of New York State, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists, and the New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists, **we request immediate release of all available quantities of the following critical drugs from the Strategic National Stockpile to the New York and New Jersey Departments of Health to address our urgent patient care needs:**

Request for drugs in order of priority per category

#### Analgesia

1. Fentanyl
2. Hydromorphone
3. Morphine
4. Remifentanyl
5. Sufentanyl

#### Sedation/Induction

1. Propofol and Etomidate
2. Midazolam
3. Ketamine
4. Lorazepam
5. Dexmedetomidine

#### Rapid sequence intubation:

#1 for all Succinylcholine, Rocuronium, Vecuronium

#### Neuromuscular Blocking agents continuous infusions

1. Cisatracurium
2. Atracurium
3. Rocuronium
4. Vecuronium

#### Induction agents

1. Etomidate
2. Ketamine
3. Propofol

#### Vasopressor

1. Norepinephrine
2. Vasopressin
3. Phenylephrine
4. Epinephrine
5. Dobutamine

Atropine

Epinephrine

Lidocaine

Thank you for your consideration and responsiveness to this critical request on behalf of New York and New Jersey hospitals and their patients.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Raske, President, Greater New York Hospital Association

Bea Grause, President, Healthcare Association of New York State

Tom Kraus, Vice President, Government Relations, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Lisa M. Voigt, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, President, New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists

Navin Phillips, PharmD, BS, DPLA, President, New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists