



Region X EMS

To: IL EMS Region X Prehospital Providers
From: Region X Medical Directors
Date: October 8, 2024
Subject: IV Fluid Shortage

Most of you are aware of the closure of Baxter's plant in Marion, N.C., due to damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The facility was a critical supplier of intravenous (IV) solutions to include normal saline, dextrose 10%, dextrose 5% and irrigation solution.

To assist in the upcoming shortage of IV fluids we are asking providers to abide by the following:

1. Eliminate the use of TKO/KVO IV fluids. To keep veins open, use saline locks or flushes instead of IV fluids.
2. Deliver IV fluids to patients that are hemodynamically unstable or have the strong possibility to become unstable.
3. If administering a medication, use a saline flush to follow up the medication, rather than piggybacking on a hemodynamically stable patient.
4. Please do not keep IV fluids in warmers, this shortens the shelf life of the solutions.
5. Regional hospitals will only replace IV solutions one-for-one if used for a patient transported to that facility
6. Do not pre-spike IV bag in preparation for a patient until it is determined that IV fluids are needed.

Notification will be sent out if there is a change/extension of the expiration dates. Please contact your coordinators or medical directors with questions.

Michael Peters, MD, FAEMS
Northwestern Medicine North Region EMSS
Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

Jeremy Lott, DO
Saint Francis Hospital EMS System
Ascension Saint Francis Hospital

Jude Kieltya, MD, MPH, FACEP
Condell Medical Center EMSS
Advocate Condell Medical Center

Ben Feinzimer, DO, FACEP
Endeavor Highland Park Hospital EMSS
Endeavor Health System

Bruce MacKenzie, MD, FACEP, FAAEM
North Lake County EMSS
Vista Health System