



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute *for* Emergency Medical Services Systems

Wes W. Moore
Governor

Clay B. Stamp
Chairman EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

To: EMS Clinicians

From: Timothy Chizmar, MD
State EMS Medical Director

Date: October 4, 2024

Re: IV Fluid Shortage

Recently, the Baxter North Cove Plant in North Carolina sustained significant storm damage from Hurricane Helene. This facility produces large quantities of IV fluids used in the United States. With this plant outage, we anticipate the possibility of supply chain disruption.

Please use sound judgment and conserve IV fluids when possible.

Effective immediately, please reserve IV fluids for patients who are hemodynamically unstable or in shock (e.g., tachycardic, hypotensive). For stable patients who may need intravenous access for medications, we should establish a “saline lock” and not hang IV fluids at “keep vein open (kvo)” rate.

Thank you for your flexibility and sound judgment as we aim to use our resources wisely and deliver excellent patient care. We will share further guidance on this evolving situation as it becomes available.

CC: MIEMSS Regional Coordinators
Base Stations