

Michelle Endresz

From: Heidi Chapman on behalf of Amy Tucker
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Amy Tucker
Cc: Heidi Chapman; Joseph M. Burczynski; Michelle Zoanetti
Subject: CMO BLAST: Urgent - Critical IV Fluid Shortage Anticipated

Importance: High

To All Upstate Medical Staff,

Hurricane Helene caused significant flooding at Baxter International's primary IV fluid manufacturing plant in Marion, North Carolina. This facility was Baxter's largest manufacturing plant in the world, accounting for more than half of their IV fluid, peritoneal dialysate, and irrigation fluid production.

Unfortunately, Baxter is the primary supplier of IV fluids for Upstate and has subsequently limited our ordering quantities to only 40% of our normal usage.

(Example: Upstate typically uses 180 cases of normal saline weekly, and we have been reduced to a **maximum** of 54 cases. These 54 cases are not guaranteed and may be further reduced by the supplier.)

Therefore, it is critical that we as an organization initiate immediate and robust conservation efforts to maintain sufficient stock for patient care. We are asking all Upstate providers to carefully evaluate all patient fluid orders **daily**.

To ensure critical review all EPIC orders for impacted fluids will default to a 24 hour stop date, which means that, if needed, fluids will need to be reordered daily.

In addition to daily review and 24 hour stop date default please enact the following best practices.

- Limit the use of "Keep Vein Open Orders."
- Decrease fluid rates as soon as clinically indicated.
- Discontinue infusions as soon as appropriate.
- Use oral hydration whenever possible.
- Use oral medications or slow IV push orders when possible.

Nursing staff is being encouraged to monitor patients and inform providers if IV fluids may no longer be required.

A level 3 incident command has been activated in order strategize and ensure staff are continually on product availability and will communicate if any further actions are needed.

Your diligence in conserving these essential resources is critical to sustaining patient care during this shortage. Thank you for your attention and collaboration.

Best,
Amy

Amy Tucker, MD, MHCM
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