

Disruptions in Availability of Intravenous and Peritoneal Dialysis Solutions

DATE:	October 11, 2024
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Disruptions in Availability of Intravenous and Peritoneal Dialysis Solutions Supply
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	N/A
COUNTY:	N/A
MUNICIPALITY:	N/A
ZIP CODE:	N/A

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” which provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

Summary

- On September 29, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a [public health emergency](#) for North Carolina due to health impacts from Hurricane Helene. Among the facilities impacted in the state was [Baxter International’s North Cove Plant](#), which is the leading U.S. manufacturer of intravenous (IV) and peritoneal dialysis solutions. The facility is closed for production while the company continues to assess the damage.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) strongly encourages health care providers to use appropriate measures to conserve IV and other solutions currently in short supply.
- Health care providers, health care facility administrators, and state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments affected by this shortage should immediately begin to assess their situations and develop plans and options to mitigate the potential impact of the shortage on patient care.
- If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

Background:

On September 29, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a [public health emergency](#) for North Carolina due to health impacts from Hurricane Helene. Among the facilities impacted in the state was [Baxter International’s North Cove Plant](#), which is the leading U.S. manufacturer of intravenous (IV) and peritoneal dialysis solutions. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) strongly encourages health care providers to use appropriate measures to conserve IV and other solutions currently in short supply due to a confluence of events:

- Baxter International Inc's North Cove site in Marion, NC was affected by flooding due to Hurricane Helene and is currently closed for production. The facility specializes in the production of intravenous (IV) and peritoneal dialysis solutions and is the leading U.S. manufacturer of these products. The company is working around the clock in close coordination with local, state, and federal officials to assess the extent of the damage and implement a plan to bring the plant back online as quickly as possible to help mitigate supply disruption to patients.
- Further impacts from the movement of Hurricane Milton across Florida may continue to impact supply chain for these critical products, including from another manufacturing facility that produces these same or similar products.

Recommendations for Health Care Providers and Health Care Facility Administrators:

As federal agencies work to mitigate supply chain disruptions of these critical products, we advise all providers to do the following to manage and conserve IV solutions and products:

- Evaluate current stock levels, expiration dates, and the distribution of IV solutions.
- Collaborate with clinical teams to identify which patients are in critical need of impacted IV solutions.
- Identify alternative sources of solutions and medications such as oral rehydration for non-critically ill patients.
- Optimize fluid management to minimize waste.
- Assess pharmacy operational strategies.
- Engage clinical teams on managing fluid restrictions, medication changes, and potential risks.
- Document and monitor fluid usage, patient needs, and any shortages encountered.
- Follow current FDA guidance, which may include holding expired product for use after the expiration date if approved by federal agencies.
- Follow the status of manufacturing and allocations from Baxter on their [Hurricane Helene Updates](#) page.
- The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) has published [suggestions](#) for management and conservation of IV solutions.

We recognize that supply chain disruptions are occurring nationwide and respectfully request all providers adhere to the conservation measures outlined above and do their best to maintain patient treatment in its current clinical setting.

If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

Individuals interested in receiving further PA-HANs are encouraged to register at [HAN Notification Registration](#).

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of October 11, 2024, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.