



Date: 12/15/2017

To: All Hartford Hospital Sponsored Services and Providers

From: Charles Johndro, DO 
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Re: Guidance regarding potential IV fluid shortages

Shortages and potential shortages of normal saline (NS) and lactated ringers (LR) IV fluids have been reported. It is likely these shortages will become worse before they are resolved.

Hartford Hospital sponsored EMS services may initiate the following steps in response to shortages of NS and/or LR IV solutions. These steps are to be implemented in priority of the order listed and only to the extent necessary.

1. Check with multiple vendors for IV fluid availability. Stock standard fluid type and size when available.
2. For patients who require IV access but no fluids, the use of saline locks is strongly encouraged.
3. D5W may be stocked and used for the following purposes:
 - a. To mix all medication infusions (all EMS medications are compatible with D5W)
 - b. As a KVO/medication administration line.
 - c. D5W is **NOT** to be used for fluid resuscitation.
4. When crystalloids are necessary for fluid replacement:
 - a. May stock <1000mL bags of NS/LR (may use 250-500cc bags when available)
 - b. Lactated Ringers may be used instead of NS when NS is unavailable
 - c. Administer the lowest fluid volume necessary to achieve adequate perfusion

Sponsored Services are expected to regularly communicate with the Sponsor Hospital regarding the status of medication shortages they are experiencing.