



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

October 3, 2024

Dear Maryland Providers,

The Maryland Department of Health strongly encourages providers to utilize appropriate measures to conserve IV and other solutions currently in short supply due to a confluence of events announced this week:

- 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 US 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.
- As the strike continues at East Coast and Gulf Coast's ports, we continue to assess vulnerabilities and supply chain impacts. Current preliminary assessments indicate immediate impacts across medicines, medical devices, and infant formula for consumers, parents, and caregivers should be limited.

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.
- 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.

Yours in health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Kalyanaraman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nilesh Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP
Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services

Cc: Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH, Secretary
Sara Barra, Director, MS, CPM, CBCP, Director, Office of Preparedness and Response