



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

October 15, 2024

Dear Maryland Providers,

The Maryland Department of Health strongly encourages providers to continue to utilize appropriate measures to conserve IV and other solutions currently in short supply due to the closure of Baxter International Inc's North Cove site in Marion, NC. As Baxter works to restore manufacturing operations, allocations are in place to limit orders based on historical purchase and medical necessity.

Effective Wednesday, October 9th, Baxter announced that they are increasing the current U.S. allocation levels of the highest demand IV fluids for direct customers from 40% to 60%, and for distributors from 10% to 60%. Allocations for IV solutions and nutrition products for designated children's hospitals were increased to 100%. The goal is to return to 90% to 100% allocation of certain IV solution product codes by the end of 2024.

As federal agencies continue to work with manufacturers to mitigate supply chain disruptions of these critical products per the timeline above, we continue to 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.

We also advise providers to not dispose of recently expired IV solutions and products as there may be potential for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to authorize shelf life extension based on manufacturer efficacy data.

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.

Resources:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Letter to Health Care Leaders and Stakeholders on Impacts of Hurricane Helene from Secretary Becerra](#)
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration: [Hurricane Helene: Baxter's manufacturing recovery in North Carolina](#)
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP): [Small- and Large-Volume Fluid Shortages – Suggestions for Management and Conservation](#)
- Baxter: [Medical Information Letter for Home Dialysis Customers](#)
- Baxter: [Medical Information Letter for Healthcare Facilities](#)

Yours in health,



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Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services

Cc: Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH, Secretary  
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