



MILWAUKEE COUNTY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

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NUMBERED NOTICE

Number: 24-06

Date: 10/11/2024

From: Ben Weston, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Director

To: All EMS Clinicians

Subject: IV Fluid Shortage

Purpose: Directive

Situation

Hurricane activity has resulted severe limitations in national production of IV fluids, leading to likely supply shortages.

Background

IV fluids are used in a variety of patient care and training settings within Milwaukee County's EMS system.

Assessment

Immediate actions are required to conserve IV fluids, understand supply levels, and best ensure ongoing availability to the system.

Recommendations

Conservation of IV fluids

- Utilize IV fluids only when EMS clinician believes a strong indication exists as outlined by current guidelines (examples: shock, sepsis, hyper/ hypoglycemia, cardiac arrest)
- Avoid IV fluid use to run "TKO"
- Avoid IV fluid use in training scenarios
- Consider purchase and administration of oral fluids in appropriate circumstances
- Do not discard recently expired fluids in case dates are extended

Supply monitoring

- OEM will work with EMS liaisons to track IV fluid stock, type, and expiration during time of shortage

Ensuring availability

- OEM and EMS systems will continue communication on supply availability and alternative procurement

Future steps

- OEM and EMS system will continue to monitor situation and advise as needed

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