



HEALTH ADVISORY # 223

Disruption in Production of Intravenous Fluid Due to Impacts from Hurricane Helene

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, EMS Agencies, and Other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Matthew Christiansen, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, West Virginia Department of Health, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: October 10, 2024

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors, and other applicable partners

OTHER RECIPIENTS: Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

Hurricane impacts healthcare in many ways including damage to crucial infrastructure. Impacts by Hurricane Helene have led to a temporary supply disruption at the [Baxter](#) facility in Marion, North Carolina. The Baxter facility provides a significant portion of intravenous (IV) solutions, irrigation fluids, and peritoneal solutions (PD) to the US medical system, accounting for approximately 60% of domestic production. There are currently shortages of normal saline IV fluids, normal saline irrigation fluid, sterile water irrigation and dextrose 5% IV fluids that pre-date Hurricane Helene. The hurricane-related supply distribution at the Baxter facility will lead to further constraints.

Based on the recent impacts of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina, the **West Virginia Department of Health strongly recommends health care providers and facilities implement conservation measures around the use of IV and PD solutions.** While the FDA has not yet declared a shortage of these products, a short supply has been reported at some health care facilities across the state and region.

While the situation is evolving daily, we continue to monitor the evolving situation and are in close coordination with other state and federal agencies. We recommend that you follow the conservation measures by Baxter [here](#) and by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) [here](#).

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is actively working with Baxter and other partners to support infrastructure repairs and ensure the facility can resume operations as quickly as possible. For questions about this health alert, contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services, at (304) 558-5358 ext. 2.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

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.