



# County of El Dorado

## Emergency Medical Services Agency

2900 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667-4197

Kristine Guth, MPH  
EMS Agency Manager

David Duncan, MD  
EMS Agency Medical Director

Phone (530) 621-6500

### \*\*\*PARAMEDIC ALERT\*\*\* No. 2024-05

October 4th, 2024

**TO:** All EMS Personnel  
**FROM:** El Dorado County EMS Agency  
**SUBJECT:** Supply Chain Disruption: Intravenous Fluid  
**Purpose:** Stakeholder Information

#### SUMMARY:

- The solutions commonly used to initiate intravenous (IV) access and deliver IV therapy are currently affected by a national supply shortage.
- Field Providers are advised to exercise discretion when establishing IV access and make best use of available stock when delivering infusions or volume.

#### DETAIL:

Baxter International Inc. is the largest manufacturer of intravenous fluids and peritoneal dialysis solutions in the United States. Baxter's North Cove facility in Western North Carolina has sustained significant flood damage due to Hurricane Helene, halting production across a range of products including the IV fluids most commonly used in EMS.

Part of Baxter's strategy for maintaining supply continuity is to establish allocations and ordering limits to discourage stockpiling. The significance of these limits on EMS restocking in El Dorado County is not yet clear, but impacts are likely. Baxter's public statements indicate they are doing all they can to resume production.

Until the supply chain normalizes, EMS providers are advised to exercise discretion with regard to IV access, utilizing **low-volume 'locks'** when access is clinically warranted and making fullest use of **all isotonic fluid stocks** for infusions or boluses (bearing any potential drug interactions in mind).

**\*\*All life-critical therapies should commence normally, according to current protocol.\*\***