



Alameda County Health
Emergency Medical Services

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 8, 2024

TO: All Alameda County EMS Clinicians

FROM: Alameda County EMS Agency

SUBJECT: IV Fluid Administration Guidelines During Supply Shortage

In all cases, for the duration of the IV fluid shortage, the use of IV fluids should be carefully evaluated based on the clinical needs of the patient. We ask that clinicians prioritize IV fluids for critical patients and consider alternative interventions when possible.

Due to the current IV fluid shortage caused by disruptions at the Baxter manufacturing facility in North Carolina, we are issuing guidance to help conserve IV fluid supplies while continuing to provide high-quality patient care. The following recommendations, although not all-inclusive, are intended to guide clinical decisions about when IV access and fluid administration should be prioritized and when it can be limited.

Conditions Where IV Fluid Administration is Clinically Necessary:

- **Hypovolemic Shock or Significant Hypotension:** Immediate IV fluid administration is essential in cases of suspected hypovolemic shock, significant hypotension, or severe dehydration that cannot be corrected by oral means.
- **Major Trauma, Sepsis, and Severe Burns:** Patients experiencing major trauma, severe burns, sepsis, or active hemorrhage require IV fluid resuscitation as part of critical care.

Conditions Where IV Access and Fluid Administration Should Be Limited:

- **Stable, Mildly Dehydrated Patients:** In cases of mild dehydration, oral hydration should be the preferred method when the patient is alert and able to tolerate fluids orally.
- **Non-Critical Transport:** For stable patients being transported in non-emergent conditions, IV access and fluid administration may not be necessary unless there are clinical signs of deterioration.
- **Minor Trauma or Controlled Bleeding:** Patients with minor injuries or controlled bleeding who are not in shock should generally not require IV fluids.

We appreciate your dedication and adaptability during this challenging time. For any questions regarding these guidelines or other clinical matters, please reach out to Alameda County EMS Agency.

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