



MEDICAL CONTROL POLICY STATEMENT/ADVISORY

No. 2017-06
Date: November 10, 2017

Office of the Medical Director
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CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF IV FLUIDS

ALL SAGINAW-TUSCOLA MCA PROVIDERS:

There is a significant shortage of IV fluids. This is expected to last at least one year. Currently, the biggest problem is with the 1L bags.

From the EMS perspective, we have the opportunity to help with this situation.

1. Stop hanging IV fluids “to run some fluids”, so that “I have fluids running”, the patient “is getting some fluids”, or something similar. All of these are descriptions for NON-bolus administrations that in the vast majority of EMS situations do not need IV fluids. Stop this practice. You may (and should) still bolus when necessary, but the patient should require an actual bolus, not just an infusion.
2. The hospitals will start supplying 500ml bags of normal saline instead of the 1L bags. Use these instead.
3. Switch out your 1L bags on your ambulance with the 500ml bags provided by the hospital. It is anticipated that this can start on Monday, November 13, 2017. You may carry more than 3 bags, but don’t stock more than the IVF storage bag will hold. Stay alert to notifications in the EMS rooms regarding the amount available and the stocking amounts.
4. Contact our office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your help with this situation. Remember that hanging fluids on a patient that does not really need them has the real possibility of making it unavailable to a patient that does.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noel Wagner'.

Noel Wagner, MD NRP
Medical Director, STMCA