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CLINICAL BULLETIN			
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#2022-06-08-01	IV Fluid Shortages		June 8, 2022
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Currently, the US is experiencing innumerable medication shortages. A confluence of factors, including supply-chain bottlenecks, high demand caused by the influx of COVID-19 patients into hospitals, and virus-related worker scarcity have made these fundamental products harder to find. Everything from antibiotics to local anesthetics and lifesaving emergency medications are being affected. Of particular impact is a shortage of intravenous fluids of all formulations and sizes, including 0.9% saline, D5W, Lactated Ringers, and many electrolytes. While manufacturers are working hard to meet demand and new production facilities are coming online, the impact is starting to be felt in the State of Maine EMS system. Hospitals and EMS Agencies are being allocated only a fraction of what is typically required to care for patients.

During this critical time of medication shortages, it is of utmost importance to be mindful when using medications and, at present, intravenous fluids, and solutions. Measures to help conserve current supply include:

- 1) Spike IV bags only when ready to use
- 2) Minimize KVO use, and
- 3) Critically evaluate the need for IV fluids in your patients prior to arrival at the hospital.

There is no change to Maine Pre-Hospital Treatment Protocols.

Please know that your suppliers are working diligently to resolve this issue. Currently, there has not been any notice of extending expiration dates on these products from the FDA. Please do not discard expiring supplies at this time as extended dating may be considered in the future.

Maine EMS and the MDPB continue to monitor this situation and will continue to work with agencies as this issue develops. Please contact Maine EMS Staff or any MDPB member for further questions or comments.

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