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FDA/ASHP Guidance in Response to Current Saline and Medication Shortages

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Colleagues:

Hurricane-related damage to Baxter Healthcare Corporation facilities in Puerto Rico has led to declines in production of small-volume saline bags and other medications. Decreased production from these facilities is expected to continue for several months.

Other companies produce similar products, but low available stocks and limited additional production has led to pervasive challenges in obtaining supplies. The Public Health Division has been in communication with FDA, CDC, and ASPR about this situation. We are urging them to pursue every reasonable avenue to expand available supplies to alleviate these shortages.

The American Association of Health-system Pharmacists has released the following resource to guide management and conservation of small-volume parenteral solution products. We hope you will find this useful as you respond to the current shortage:

www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/UCM582461.pdf

We will continue to work with our federal partners to increase available supplies of these important medications and will share information as it becomes available about additional, potentially useful strategies to address the shortages while they persist.

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