

Normal Saline & Lactated Ringers Infusion Alternatives

Information:

Decline of available normal saline was noted in the fall of 2013. This decline is believed to be due to increased use of NS beyond normal production quantities. The use of NS has increased with the flu season critically limiting supplies. Lactated Ringers is also in low supply and should only be used when necessary.

Please consider initiating the following in response to the shortage:

1. For patients who require IV access but no fluids, use of saline locks are strongly encouraged.
2. Use D5W to mix all drips (most EMS medications will be compatible).
3. When crystalloids are necessary, use lowest volume necessary (use 250-500cc bags when available) for patients requiring IVF
4. When appropriate use Lactated Ringers (LR) instead of NS (Please see Lactated Ringers information page)
5. Blood products can be infused with LR (see attached article)

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