



State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1536

Larry Hogan
Governor

Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Chairman
Emergency Medical
Services Board

410-706-5074
FAX: 410-706-4768

TO: Public Safety EMS Operational Programs
Commercial Services Programs
EMS Medical Directors

FROM: Richard L. Alcorta, MD, FACEP
Acting Co-Executive Director
State EMS Medical Director
MIEMSS

DATE: January 26, 2018

RE: International IV Fluid Shortages

Following the catastrophic damage associated with Hurricane Maria that hit Puerto Rico in September 2017, there has been a significant decrease in all forms of IV fluid (e.g. Lactated Ringers, Normal Saline, D5W) availability. This has led the Food and Drug Administration to reach out to Baxter and alternate pharmaceutical supply companies to try and meet the demand. This shortage has led to a rise in prices for IV fluids including Lactated Ringers. This shortage is likely to continue into May of 2018.

MIEMSS recommends that all EMS providers use saline locks for standard IV access and save the Lactated Ringers for severe traumatic resuscitation or required fluid challenges due to hypotension.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the State EMS Medical Director at 410-706-0880 if you have questions.

Thank you.

cc: Pat Gainer, JD, MPA
Chief John Butler