

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Don Ashton, M.P.A.
Director

Public Health Division
Alicia Paris-Pombo, M.Sc., M.D.
Public Health Officer

931 Spring Street
Placerville, CA 95667
530-621-6100 Phone / 530-295-2589 Fax

1360 Johnson Boulevard, Suite 103
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-573-3155 Phone / 530-541-8409



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*** PARAMEDIC ALERT ***

No. 2014-01

Date: May 14, 2014

Topic: Normal Saline Shortage Guidelines

Effective: Immediately

Attention: All EDC Paramedics and Base Hospital Personnel

As you are probably already aware, there is a nationwide shortage of IV solutions, including normal saline and ringers lactate. This situation will most likely continue for an indefinite period of time, so it is important that we have a plan in place. Until further notice, please use the following guidelines:

1. Do not dispose of any recently expired bags of IV solutions until the shortage has ended. It may be necessary to utilize these at a later date, pending State EMS Authority approval. DO NOT USE EXPIRED IV SOLUTIONS AT THIS TIME.
2. Start saline locks on all patients, except patients who will actually be given a fluid bolus. Remember, medications can be given via a saline lock.
3. There should be no prophylactic or pre-hanging of IV fluids. Save the bags for those situations where they are truly needed.

Thank you for your cooperation in dealing with this national shortage.

Sincerely,

David Brazzel, MD
Medical Director, El Dorado County EMS Agency