

CRITICAL SHORTAGE: IV FLUIDS NURSING CONSERVATION MEASURES

OCTOBER 2024

Situation/Background

All presentations of IV fluids are on critical shortage. This shortage is reflected nationally and is resultant of the recent hurricane Helene devastating the largest supplier of IV fluids in the U.S. The shortage is expected to last several months. HonorHealth is only receiving 40-50% of product compared to usual use. Mitigation strategies are essential to ensure IV fluids are prioritized to the most critical patients.

Recommendations/Actions

Expansion of IV push medications:

- The medications below will be loaded into the automated dispensing machines for ease of access. Reconstitution should occur immediately prior to administration.
 - Aztreonam: Reconstitute 500mg, 1 gram, or 2gram with 10mL NS and push over 3 minutes.
 - Cefuroxime: Reconstitute 1.5gram with **20mL SWFI** (sterile water for injection) and push over 3 minutes (do not dilute with NS).
 - Cefepime: Reconstitute 1 gram or 2 grams with 10mL NS and push over 3 minutes.
 - Ertapenem: Reconstitute 500mg or 1gram with 10mL NS and push over 3 minutes.
 - Meropenem: Reconstitute 500mg with 10mL **SWFI** and push over 3 minutes (do not dilute with NS).
 - Meropenem: Reconstitute 1gram with **20mL SWFI** and push over 3 minutes (do not dilute with NS).

MAR administration instruction updates:

- All orders for IV fluids will have MAR instructions for nursing to discontinue IV infusion once patient is tolerating PO.
- *Critically evaluate the need to spike a new IV bag* if a patient's ability to take PO is progressing.

Automatic discontinue dates on IV continuous fluids after 48 hours:

- All infusion orders for IV fluids will automatically discontinue and will require new orders to continue.
- *Critically evaluate the need to spike a new IV bag* if orders are near expiry to avoid wasting IV fluids once orders for IV infusions are discontinued.

Reversion of Saline Lock Order Changes

- Last month Epic was modified to have nursing pull a 250mL NS bag to infuse if a patient requires IV administration and does not have a primary IV fluid running.
- To conserve 250mL bags for more critical needs, please pull smaller volumes of NS to flush medications if patients do not have a primary IV fluid.

Go-Live for the above changes is October 9th, 2024. Thank you for all your efforts in conserving IV fluids!