

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T #15-2024

TO: All Fresno/Kings/Madera/Tulare EMS Providers, Hospitals, First Responder Agencies, and Interested Parties

FROM: Miranda Lewis, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Mato-Kuwapi Parker, EMS Coordinator

DATE: October 3, 2024

SUBJECT: Lactated Ringers and Normal Saline Shortage

Due to the extreme weather events on the east coast, Lactated Ringers and Normal Saline are currently in a severe shortage. It is unknown how long this shortage of Lactated Ringers and Normal Saline will last.

The EMS Agency is requesting that all providers attempt to evenly disperse Lactated Ringers and Normal Saline in their vehicles that are current, even if the amount on each vehicle falls below the County minimum. In instances where there is extreme shortage, the provider agencies should assure the primary response vehicles have what is available, even if expired.

While this shortage continues, use of IV fluids will be restricted to preserve our current inventories and ensure that crystalloids are available for the most appropriate patients.

Therefore, effective immediately:

- Lactated Ringers or Normal Saline use should be limited to patients with hypotension (SBP < 90 mmHg in adults or relative hypotension for age in pediatrics)
- TKO fluids should not be administered. Saline lock should be used in patients requiring IV access.
- Normal Saline may be used in place of Lactated Ringers in CCEMSA patient care protocols should Lactated Ringers become unavailable.
- If a crystalloid infusion is initiated, do not dispose of the IV fluid bag unless the infusion is complete. Hospitals will continue EMS initiated IV fluids, when possible, to preserve stock.

Please contact Mato Parker, EMS Coordinator at (559) 600-3387 if you have any questions.