



**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**



This is an official DPH Health Advisory

On July 1, 2024, the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) became two separate agencies: S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and S.C. Department of Public Health (DPH).

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Intravenous Fluid Supply Disruption

Damage from Hurricane Helene to a Baxter International Inc. plant in North Cove, North Carolina that produces intravenous (IV) products and dialysis solutions has caused concern about supply in South Carolina and the United States. Baxter International Inc., the Federal Drug Administration, and the Agency for Strategic Preparedness and Response are working to mitigate the supply shortage situation.

At this time, the FDA has not declared a supply shortage. Work is underway to assess the situation, determine which products might be affected, and address potential supply constraints. The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) is working with health care partners across the state to understand what this production issue might mean for South Carolinians.

First, Baxter International Inc. has produced guidance for supply management and conservation [here](#). We encourage all providers to read these suggestions even if they are not customers of Baxter.

Second, it is prudent to begin conserving existing inventory of IV fluids and dialysis solutions. DPH is asking all health care providers and facilities to assist in the following ways to steward existing supply.

1. Inventory current stocks of IV fluids and current use patterns.
2. Reduce non-essential use of IV fluids. Prioritize use for patients with urgent medical needs.
3. Evaluate alternative strategies for patient care to minimize non-essential IV fluids, including pharmacy operational strategies like different medication administration routes.
4. Identify alternative suppliers of these products.

Third, in the event of a future shortage of IV fluids and dialysis solutions, DPH will continue to communicate with statewide partners about how to make supply requests.

Resources for Additional Information

SC Hospital Association:

[Urgent Update on Baxter Plant in NC & Impact on Hospital Services \(campaign-archive.com\)](#)

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Info Service	Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.