



October 8, 2024

Hurricane Helene's Impact on IV Solution SUPPLY

Background: Baxter International Inc. reports production is shut down at its facility in Marion, North Carolina, due to severe flooding from Hurricane Helene. Baxter is working to assess the damage to the facility, but it is not known when it will return to normal operations. There is also damage to roads and bridges in the area used to access the Baxter facility.

To minimize potential supply disruptions, Baxter is implementing an allocation process to support supply continuity and ensure equitable product distribution. They will increase operations at other facilities and work with global manufacturing partners to reduce supply impact.

Updates:

The Georgia Department of Public Health, Healthcare Preparedness Program, partners from the Georgia Hospital Association, and the Department of Community Health have met with nationwide counterparts to address supply chain issues. Collective updates are as follows:

- The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has not declared a new shortage with anything relating to these products. In addition to Baxter, other large manufacturers in the U.S. produce IV solutions. The FDA is working to increase production at their sites to mitigate supply chain impacts.
- Georgia has made a request to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), but they do not typically include these solutions and medications as a part of the SNS cache.
- The Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR) is working with state partners and is in close contact with Baxter assisting with damage assessment and recovery efforts.
- Baxter has established a command center and is contacting facilities about the allocation of products.

Resources:

As Georgia continues to navigate these challenges, the following resources might help facilities implement their own conservation strategies:

- [ASHP recommendations](#) for managing fluid shortages and conserving supply. ASHP is the largest association of pharmacy professionals in the United States.
- [Baxter's Hurricane Update Website](#)
- [Baxter's letter](#) to customers with suggestions for Management and Conservation
- [FDA Drug Shortages Website](#)

We will continue to monitor this situation closely as it unfolds and share information as it becomes available.

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