



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
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**TO:** Chief Executive Officers, Acute Care and Non- Acute  
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**FROM:** Kerin Milesky  
Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management  
Eric Sheehan, JD  
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

**DATE:** December 21, 2017

**RE:** Resources to Address Intravenous (IV) Fluid Shortages

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's awareness of the ongoing intravenous (IV) fluid shortages and share possible resources to address small-volume parenteral solutions availability concerns due to Hurricane Maria's impact in Puerto Rico.

The intravenous (IV) fluid products manufacturing industry has a significant presence in Puerto Rico; this industry is experiencing disruption as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. IV fluids or specifically small-volume parenteral solutions, which are solutions with a volume of 100 milliliters or less that are intended for intermittent intravenous administration, are at a critical shortage. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been actively working with manufacturers to increase the available supply.

The FDA's most recent update on this critical situation may be found on their website at the following link:

<https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm585720.htm>

The FDA recommends that health care organizations review the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) guidance for potential action steps for conservation of small-volume parenteral solution bags and operational strategies for managing the shortage. The Department also encourages all health care organizations to consider this guidance when developing and implementing their continuity of operations management plans. The guidance may be found at the following link:

<https://www.ashp.org/Drug-Shortages/Shortage-Resources/Publications/Small-Volume-Parenteral-Solutions-Shortages>

The Department will continue to closely monitor this shortage and appreciates health care organizations continued commitment to the safety of its patients. Questions about this memorandum may be directed to [dph.emergencypreparedness@State.MA.US](mailto:dph.emergencypreparedness@State.MA.US).