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Department of Safety

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New Hampshire EMS Information Bulletin 20

DATE: January 31, 2014

SUBJECT: Normal Saline Shortage

TO: New Hampshire EMS Providers, Medical Directors, EMS Unit Leaders, and EMS Hospital Coordinators

FROM: Tom D'Aprix, MD - State EMS Medical Director

We have received notification that some areas in NH are experiencing shortages of 0.9% Sodium Chloride (Normal Saline). This trend reflects a national shortage as well. Please see the attached fact sheet from the Emergency Nurses Association

Until Normal Saline returns to its usual availability, the NH Bureau of EMS endorses the following:

- With the **exceptions** listed below, Lactated Ringers can be used as a direct substitute with Normal Saline.
- **Exceptions** – there is either **no data**, or, **clear evidence** of incompatibility between Lactated Ringers and the following agents; they should **NOT** be combined.
 - Amiodarone
 - Atropine
 - Diltiazem
 - Fentanyl
 - Ganisetron
 - Ondaneston
 - Metoprolol
 - Midazolam
 - Naloxone
 - Vasopressin

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