

Intravenous Fluid Shortage

National Response Group

Meeting Communique 25 November 2024

Latest update

Conservation strategies implemented to date have been effective in managing the IV fluid shortage. It is critical that these efforts continue over the coming months. The fluids where conservation is most critical are:

- *Sodium chloride 0.9% 1000mL*
- *Compound sodium lactate (Hartmann's) 1000mL*
- *Sodium chloride 0.9% 100mL*

The National Response Group will request suppliers increase supply of sodium chloride 0.9% 1000mL bags. This will assist with improving supply over the Summer months. Supply is also being supplemented through products available via Section 19A arrangements.

The Commonwealth Government and the jurisdictions are collaborating to establish systems to respond to emergency responses (e.g. bushfires) where additional IV fluids may be required.

Agreed Outcomes

1. Continue to conserve all IV fluids, particularly ***sodium chloride 0.9% 1000mL, compound sodium lactate (Hartmann's) 1000mL and sodium chloride 0.9% 100mL*** across December and January.
2. Communicate with suppliers regarding additional supply of sodium chloride 0.9% 1000mL bags.
3. The Commonwealth Government and jurisdiction representatives to determine emergency response arrangements.
4. Continue to encourage use of the Sip Til Send protocol for surgical patients. This has been widely adopted and there have been no reported adverse effects to date.
5. Continue to review the need for supplementing supply with overseas-registered products available via section 19A.
6. Continue to report any adverse effects or unintended consequences from conservation strategies to the group.

Background

The National Response Group for the management of the Intravenous Fluid shortage was formed at the request of the Victorian Department of Health Secretary, Professor Euan Wallace and chaired by Professor Andrew Wilson, the Chief Medical Officer in the Victorian Department of Health.

This group includes representatives with executive oversight and procurement leaders from all Australian jurisdictions, clinicians in both the public and private hospital sectors, alongside

representatives from community health care and day procedure centre providers, ambulance providers, veterinary practice representatives from the Australian Veterinary Association, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australian Medical Association, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Advanced Pharmacy Australia and the Commonwealth Government, with engagement and updates from industry representatives.

The National Response Group will continue to monitor the situation, provide responsive information to the health sector and will continue to work alongside key stakeholders to ensure supply and demand are adequately and appropriately managed.