



SAN MATEO COUNTY
HEALTH SYSTEM

TO: SAN MATEO COUNTY EMT'S AND PARAMEDICS
FROM: GREGORY GILBERT, MD, EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR *GG*
DATE: JULY 23, 2014
SUBJECT: NORMAL SALINE

There is a national shortage of normal saline. While medical supply companies are variably affected with some being able to fill orders, others have placed restrictions on orders to re-supply normal saline inventories.

To address these issues, prudent use of saline is recommended. The following are guidelines for use:

1. Hang IV fluid for the following situations:
 - a. Trauma criteria patients with a systolic blood pressure < 90 mm Hg.
 - b. Suspected hypovolemic states with a systolic pressure < 90 mm Hg. These cases may present as suspected sepsis, dehydration, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, anaphylaxis, vomiting/diarrhea, agitated delirium, cardiac arrest with PEA rhythms, or hypotension with acute myocardial infarction without pulmonary edema.
 - c. Administration of vein irritating medications such as calcium chloride.
2. When IV access is indicated in situations other than those listed above, use a saline lock. For IV medication administration only (no need for IV fluid replacements), the medication can be given through a saline lock with a 10 ml saline flush. .

CC: Brad White, General Manager AMR
John Odle, Executive Director, San Mateo County Pre-hospital Emergency
Medical Services Group
Louise Rogers, Interim EMS Administrator