



24 Madison Ave. Ext.
Albany, NY 12203

REMAC Advisory 2024-01

Re: IV Fluid Shortage and Oral Rehydration

Effective: October 22, 2024

Due to the shortage of IV solutions, EMS should not initiate any intravenous fluids unless there is definitive need for them. There should be NO prophylactic IVs placed.

The hospital and EMS partnership through the REMAC that empowers our regional restocking agreement, allows EMS units to return to service immediately upon leaving a hospital. This makes a huge difference in terms of EMS availability, and ultimately, readiness to serve our patients. Reducing IV fluid use IMMEDIATELY is the best way for EMS to demonstrate our partnership with the hospitals around this most recent crisis.

EMS agencies may consider carrying oral rehydration for patients with mild dehydration. Commercial electrolyte products (eg: Gatorade©, Powerade©, or PediaLyte©) or water are good alternatives for use on ambulances rather than starting IV fluids.

Ondansetron may be given IM or orally, or a saline lock may be started for IV administration, but no fluid initiated. If there are questions about using oral versus IV hydration, please call a Medical Control physician.

This advisory is not for patients with severe illness who require IV fluid including, but not limited to: vomiting that cannot be controlled with oral medications, hypotensive septic patients, trauma patients with significant injuries, or severe abdominal pain that may require surgery.

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL of the HUDSON MOHAWK VALLEYS

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