

DELAWARE HEALTH ADVISORY #521: Leading IV Manufacturer Closed Due to Hurricane Damage

The Delaware Division of Public Health is sending this health advisory to advise clinicians and health departments of the temporary closing of Baxter's North Cove Plant in Marion, North Carolina, the country's largest manufacturer of intravenous (IV) and peritoneal dialysis solutions.

Summary

Due to damages from Hurricane Helene, [Baxter International's](#) North Cove Plant in Marion, North Carolina, is currently closed for production as the company assesses the extent of the impact.

Background

The North Cove plant is the largest manufacturer of intravenous (IV) and peritoneal dialysis solutions in the U.S. and manufactures 60% of the country's supply of IV solutions, producing 1.5 million bags per day¹. The facility was flooded and is closed for production while the company assesses the damage. There was also damage to the surrounding areas, including damaged roads and a collapsed bridge which leads to the plant.

Baxter is communicating with its customers about the actions the company is taking to minimize potential disruptions. These include actively managing inventory and implementing a protective allocation process by product line to help support supply continuity and equitable product distribution. The company will leverage Baxter's global manufacturing network to help mitigate potential supply impact as it continues efforts to fully restore North Cove's manufacturing operations².

Ahead of the storm, Baxter implemented its hurricane preparedness plan, which included moving products to higher ground and secure storage areas when possible.

It is not immediately clear whether the plant's closure will lead to significant shortages of the solutions for patients³.

Information for Clinicians

If your agency's health care supply becomes adversely affected due to the situation, or if you need to request assistance, contact the [Healthcare Ready Support Team](#) at Alerts@HealthcareReady.org or call 1-866-247-2694.

Health care facilities utilizing IV fluid should assess their current supply and stock of IV fluid. Consider communication with your vendors to assess their stock and ability to provide continuous resupply. While no changes to clinical practice are recommended at this time, developing contingency plans to use IV fluid on a more selective basis would allow rapid implementation if needed. Finally, consider alternatives to fluids typically administered should a specific IV fluid reach a low supply level (i.e. change from 0.9% normal saline to Lactated Ringers or vice versa).

Baxter said in a news release Monday that it is taking steps to minimize supply disruptions, such as by leaning on its global manufacturing network³. Wells Fargo analysts said that it was still too early to tell whether the shutdown would affect medical procedures and it would depend on how long the plant was closed. They said that they believe that three other companies that manufacture IV solutions will be able to offset some of the lost supply.

[Baxter](#) will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available and aims to provide an update on estimated timing to resume production as soon as it is able.

References

- 1 American Hospital Association, *North Carolina under PHE following Hurricane Helene, IV solutions plant closed*, <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2024-09-30-north-carolina-under-phe-following-hurricane-helene-iv-solutions-plant-closed>
- 2 Baxter, *Baxter Provides Update on North Cove, N.C., Facility and Hurricane Helene Relief Plans for Community*, <https://www.baxter.com/baxter-newsroom/baxter-provides-update-north-cove-nc-facility-and-hurricane-helene-relief-plans>
- 3 Chicago Tribune, *Deerfield-based Baxter temporarily closes its largest plant following hurricane, raising questions about supply of medical solutions*,

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/09/30/baxter-temporarily-closes-its-largest-plant-following-hurricane-raising-questions-about-supply-of-medical-solutions/>