Date: March 5, 2014
Topic: Intravenous (IV) Solutions (Normal Saline) Shortage in Nevada and Nationwide
Contact: State of Nevada, DPBH, Office of Public Health Preparedness (PHP), Erin Seward, Program Manager
To: All Hospitals/Healthcare Facilities in Nevada

The State of Nevada, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), continues to receive calls and emails regarding severe shortages of commonly used Intravenous (IV) fluids, particularly 0.9 percent sodium chloride, in some healthcare facilities within Nevada. The most serious IV solution shortage involves liter bags. Supplies of lactated ringer’s and 5 percent dextrose and water injection are also running low. Our primary goal is to ensure that patients’ needs for IV solutions are met.

The U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (OASPR), along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are working with the three manufacturers of IV solutions (Baxter, Hospira, and B. Braun), to help preserve the supply of these necessary products, including finding alternative sources, so that patients can get the medicines they need, when they need them. These manufacturers will take emergency orders from customers that have depleted IV solutions.

The State of Nevada strongly suggests all healthcare facilities to use the following websites for detailed information regarding duration of shortages and alternatives--these sites are continually updated:

www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm314743.htm#sodiumch
www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm382255.htm

Additionally, we urge you to continue working closely with your Local Health Authority (LHA), as well as the State of Nevada, Office of Public Health Preparedness (PHP), to keep them informed of any shortage you may be experiencing at your facility. We continue to work with our federal partners who are taking a number of actions to enable continued access to products needed for critical patient therapies.

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