



**SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

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**DATE:** November 7, 2024

**TO:** 911 ALS Providers  
911 BLS Providers  
IFT ALS Providers

**SUBJECT: SHORTAGE OF VARIOUS INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS AND AUTHORIZATION  
TO MODIFY PATIENT CARE WITH RESPECT TO OCEMS POLICIES AND  
STANDING ORDERS**

While the current shortage of IV fluids is improving, it is not yet sufficient to resolve ongoing supply deficiencies. As such, it remains difficult to comply with all OCEMS policies and standing orders when treating patients in the field. Therefore, I am authorizing modifications of these processes so that patient care can continue.

Some examples include substituting D50W for D10W, encouraging oral hydration when possible, instead of providing IV fluids, and requesting to use expired bags of IV fluids for a limited time period. I will authorize the use of expired fluids on a case by case basis. Please submit your request to me in writing and I will review.

These are not an exclusive list of modified interventions and others may be necessary per paramedic medical judgment. This authorization is good until December 7, 2024, at which time the environment will be reassessed. If necessary, I am prepared to extend this authorization longer depending on circumstances. Call OCEMS if you have questions.

Carl H. Schultz, MD  
EMS Medical Director  
Orange County Health Care Agency

CHS:em#5241