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December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To: EMT-Intermediates, Advanced EMTs, & Paramedics in the EMS System  
for Metropolitan Oklahoma City & Tulsa

From: Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NRP, FACEP, FAEMS  
Medical Director

Re: Normal Saline

Many of you are aware of serious damage sustained in Puerto Rico in late September due to Hurricane Maria. What you may not be aware of is that a surprising high percentage of our country's emergency medications and intravenous fluids are manufactured in Puerto Rico. There is now a serious national shortage of Normal Saline that is projected to last for several months.

Many Oklahoma hospitals are running so low on Normal Saline that it is only being allowed for use in diabetic ketoacidosis, neurosurgery, and renal procedures. All other in-hospital orders for Normal Saline are being auto-substituted to Lactated Ringers. We are not to this situation yet, but we will be if significant action is not taken by all of us.

**Effective immediately upon your receipt of this communication, all precautionary IV lines should now be replaced with saline locks. Reserve use of 1 liter Normal Saline bags for patients that require large fluid boluses only (example: hypotension). We anticipate this will be the necessary practice indefinitely.**

If you have any questions please contact the Office of the Medical Director.