

Oct. 7, 2024  
MB# 24-059

## MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Hospitals and Outpatient Providers**

**SUBJECT: IV Fluid (Saline, LR, and Dextrose) & IV Bag Shortage**

Based on feedback from Healthy Connections Medicaid providers, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is aware of a potential shortage of saline solution, intravenous (IV) fluids and IV bags. A plant that manufactures a large portion of the country's IV fluid bags, including the majority of one-liter IV fluid bags, was severely damaged during Hurricane Helene. At this time, there is not a known timeline for when this inventory will come back online.

To mitigate the potential impact of a shortage of IV fluid bags on Healthy Connections Medicaid members and preserve IV fluid bags for patients in need of a more severe level of care, providers are encouraged to consider a conservative approach in using oral rehydration therapy (ORT) in lieu of IV fluid bags when clinically appropriate. Recommendations on potentially clinically appropriate use of ORT and oral rehydration strategies during a shortage of IV fluid bags are available in [this article from the New England Journal of Medicine](#).

Thank you for your help in this effort while the supply of IV bags stabilizes. We appreciate your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program.

/s/  
Robert M. Kerr