

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write to request the Administration take immediate action to increase the supply of intravenous (IV) and dialysis solutions. I am deeply concerned about the closure of Baxter International's facility in Marion, North Carolina. Hurricane Helene flooded the Baxter facility, which produced approximately 60% of IV and dialysis solutions in the United States. As a result, hospitals and dialysis centers have been scrambling to find IV and dialysis fluids for their patients.¹ I understand the Administration has taken efforts to increase the supply of solutions, but more must be done to protect the health and safety of Georgians.

In Georgia, hospitals are canceling non-emergency procedures and surgeries to conserve fluids. I have heard many hospitals are down to a 7-day supply, and hospitals in southern Georgia are accepting patients from Florida in the wake of Hurricane Helene which has increased the need for IV fluids. I have also heard credible concerns from constituents about price gouging, with some vendors offering IV fluid at 7 times the cost. A prolonged shortage of IV and dialysis solutions would be disastrous for the health and safety of Georgians and would make it more difficult for medical professionals to provide care.

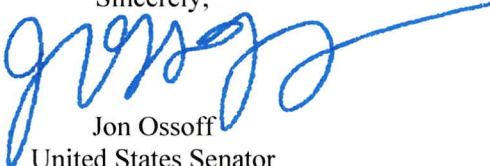
On October 11, 2024, the Food and Drug Administration added Dextrose 70% IV solution, Lactated Ringers IV Solution, and Peritoneal Dialysis Solution to the Drug Shortages Database.² In light of this update, I urge the Administration to invoke Title III of the Defense Production Act to ramp up production of IV and dialysis solutions.

This is not the first time we have seen IV and dialysis solution production impacted by natural disasters. In 2017, Hurricane Maria damaged three Baxter manufacturing facilities in Puerto Rico, which led to hospital shortages, temporary rationing, and price gouging.³ Going forward, it's clear we must do more to strengthen our domestic IV and dialysis solution supply chain.

I encourage the Administration to work with Congress to diversify production and to store IV and dialysis solutions in the Strategic National Stockpile. While these products are typically available in the commercial market, we must plan for natural disasters and emergencies. We should not wait for a third hurricane to disrupt the flow of these life-saving products. To that end, I also ask that the Administration work with States to store these solutions in their stockpiles ahead of disasters.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

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¹ <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/10/11/nx-s1-5149344/hurricane-season-iv-fluid-supply-shortage>

² <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-roundup-october-11-2024>

³ <https://www.statnews.com/2024/10/09/iv-fluid-shortage-hurricane-helene-milton-hospitals/>

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