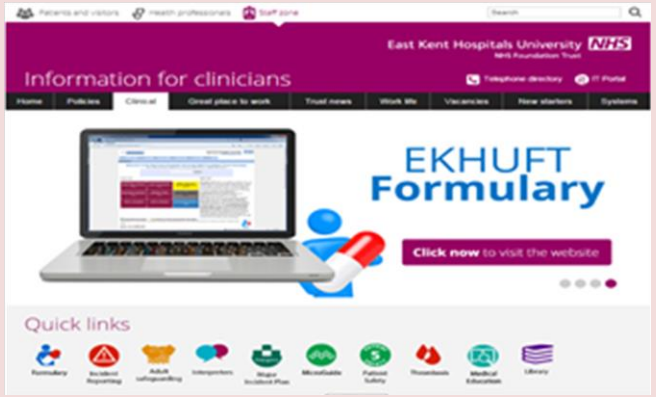
NHS
East Kent Hospitals University
NHS Foundation Trust

BACKGROUND

While the National supply situation with PlasmaLyte is now resolved, we have been notified that due to continuing intravenous fluid issues, from 12th September, until December, Baxter will be supplying American sourced 1 litre sodium chloride 0.9% by special MHRA dispensation. This is unlicensed in UK, so cannot be used by patient group direction (PGD) supply. It has a blue pull off protector, rather than a white twist off protector. This will require different removal practice from normal. The bag label is "0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection USP". The port protector difference is:

*Usual UK **twist off** port protector (white colour)*	*USA **pull off** port protector (blue colour)*
	



Prescribing & Administration Update

Sodium Chloride 0.9% 1 litre intravenous fluid

For prescribers, healthcare staff and pharmacists:

- All clinical staff who use saline (sodium chloride 0.9% w/v intravenous infusion) **must** read the attached documentation. Please display the poster in Clinical Preparation areas.
- **PlasmaLyte is currently our maintenance fluid of choice and is the default balanced electrolyte intravenous fluid.** (We still do have supplies of Hartman's in circulation predominantly in our EDs to support the original supply issue associated with PlasmaLyte. ED will be resupplied with PlasmaLyte as these stocks are run down).
- Clinical staff must not use the American product under a patient group direction (PGD) as this is illegal. Pharmacy will redirect remaining stocks of licensed saline to any clinical area notified to it where a prescriber may not be present in a clinical emergency.
- Please ensure your practice is consistent with the NICE guidelines for intravenous (IV) fluids (adult, children summary algorithms adult, children). As most intravenous fluid use is for maintenance, remember key principles such as in adults' adequate glucose (dextrose) in each 24 hour period to prevent ketosis and choice of fluids to prevent hyponatraemia (especially in children) and hypernatraemia. Use the revised national guidance in adults, with PlasmaLyte instead of Hartman's.
- Monitor and review total fluid intake and electrolytes **daily** for any patient on maintenance fluids. Re-prescribe daily based on clinical review.
- The UK product is labelled as Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion and the USA product is called 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection. These products are equivalent and this is a difference in terminology between the UK and the USA. The American product can be used in all indications that the UK product is used in, apart from use under a PGD.
- You do not need to inform patients that an unlicensed product is being used in most circumstances but do answer any queries based on attached information, that may arise from the changed appearance. The product has had British quality assurance.
- Notify any incidents, due to use of the American product, via Datix.

For further information please:

Discuss with your clinical pharmacist, call Medicines Information on 723-6001 or utilise Trust formulary to access safety information on a medicine http://www.ekhuftformulary.nhs.uk/