

NEWS ALERT

HSPA Statement for Sterile Processing Professionals Regarding Hurricane-Related Supply Shortages

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 10, 2024 — The Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) is advising its members and others in the Sterile Processing (SP) community about how the tragic events of Hurricane Helene, which shut down production at one of the largest U.S. manufacturing plants for medical sterile solutions, could impact some SP-related processes.

This supply shortage affects the SP profession because sterile water used for treating instruments where the procedure occurs may now be severely limited or unavailable. Given the shortage, HSPA recommends that SP leaders begin collaborating with Perioperative leadership, Infection Prevention & Control staff, Materials Management professionals, and regulatory teams to perform and document a risk assessment that identifies which steps the healthcare organization will take to prevent blood, bioburden and other debris from drying on instruments—while at the same time preserving sterile water and other fluids for essential patient care. A multidisciplinary approach and documented processes will demonstrate to regulatory and accreditation agencies that the healthcare organization is proactively addressing and managing the change in practice for the duration of the supply shortage.

HSPA will continue to monitor the supply shortage and latest updates and will stay in contact with standard developers, manufacturers, regulatory and accreditation agencies, and our allied associations to keep our members informed as this situation unfolds.

Last but certainly not least, HSPA sends its sincere condolences to all people and communities affected by this devastating disaster.

For more information about this HSPA statement, contact Damien Berg at dberg@myhspa.org.

The following links provide more information and guidance about the supply shortage:

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/10/09/letter-health-care-leaders-stakeholders-impacts-hurricane-helene-secretary-becerra.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/updates-2024-hurricane-season/hurricane-helene-baxters-manufacturing-recovery-north-carolina>

<https://www.aha.org/updates-iv-fluid-supplies-after-helene-forces-closure-baxter-manufacturing-plant>

<https://www.baxter.com/baxter-newsroom/hurricane-helene-updates>