What? Due to critical shortage with normal saline and half-normal saline 1000 ml bags for injection, the following action plan will be implemented for adult patients, for new and active orders. **Note some exclusions apply-see bullet point 5.**

- For orders for normal saline, pharmacists may automatically interchange orders to dextrose 5% in half-normal saline (D5½NS).
- For orders for half-normal saline, pharmacists may automatically interchange orders to dextrose 5% in half-normal saline (D5½NS).
- For orders for NS running at a rate ≤20 ml/hr or those written as “Keep vein open” or “to keep vein open”; pharmacists may automatically interchange to D5½NS.
- For all orders for ½NS running at a rate ≤20 ml/hr or those written as “Keep vein open” or “to keep vein open”; pharmacists may automatically interchange to D5½NS.
- The below conditions and situations will be excluded from the automatic interchange. Pharmacists are to review the record/medication profile for exclusions and contact the prescriber to discuss possible treatment options and/or alternatives in these situations:
  - Fluid resuscitation (albumin may serve as an alternative in this case),
  - Diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperglycemic hyperosmolar syndrome (HHS), dialysis, and patients receiving blood transfusions
- To maintain an accurate inventory, monitor and control the use; the supply of NS and ½NS will be centralized to pharmacy during this time as needed.

**Note that there are also shortage issues with Lactated Ringers at this time.**

When: Effective Immediately, as of January 16, 2014

Why: During recent correspondence with Baxter, the manufacturer revealed that sodium chloride 0.45% is out of stock with no release date. Baxter’s 0.9% sodium chloride is also out of stock with an estimated supply disruption through at least mid-February. Per ASHP, there is a report of a shortage of sodium chloride 0.9% 1000 ml bags for injection manufactured by BBraun. Additionally, Hospira discontinued one of their 1000 ml normal saline products. Currently, MLH stock is almost entirely depleted with less than a week supply on hand. Due to the current shortage and dependence on a large steady supply of both normal and half saline; MLH would like to be proactive against a possible prolonged shortage. Emergency approval has been granted for the above shortage plan.