

Sterile Water for Inhalation

Effective 11/24/2020

TYPE OF INFORMATION: Practice alert

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Respiratory Therapy and Supply Chain

S Situation	Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic there is a national shortage of sterile water for inhalation.
B Background	The COVID-19 Pandemic has stressed the supplies of inhalation water within the AAH System. Increased utilization of sterile water for inhalation due to rise in high flow equipment utilization.
A Assessment	With an increase in high flow equipment utilization and the varied practices across the system the need to standardize processes is imperative in order to preserve supplies. - Manufactures of product have recommendations of utilization of both sterile water for injection and sterile water for irrigation that are currently available but not being utilized for inhalation. - There are varied practices across the system for use of active versus passive humidification when utilizing mechanical ventilation and non-invasive ventilation.
R Recommendation	Conserve the sterile water for inhalation by instituting standardized processes to preserve supplies: Mechanical Ventilation: - Increase utilization of HME on adult mechanically ventilated patients. - Utilize HME for a minimal of the 72 hours of intubation in clinically appropriate . <i>Heated humidification should be considered for patients exhibiting signs of thick secretion, mucus plugging, or bloody secretions.</i> Non-Invasive Ventilation: - Use non-heated non-invasive ventilation for a minimal of the first 72 hours on adult patients unless clinically necessary. - For patients on BiPAP/CPAP at night do not use heated humidification. Other Considerations: - Water bags should be completely depleted before changing water bag. - If patient changes from 1 modality to another; transfer used water bag to new piece of respiratory equipment. - Select non-invasive heat mode on high flow oxygen therapy. - Utilization of both sterile water for <u>irrigation</u> and sterile water for <u>injection</u> to substitute inhalation water. Supply chain currently working on securing 2L product.

Supply Chain Process

Alternatives to standard sterile water for inhalation:

Illinois Sites

1. 2D0737 (Lawson # 1960) – 2000mL bag inhalation water. (standard order, order as available)
2. CHB0010 (Lawson # 426043) – 1000mL bottle inhalation water
3. 2D0735X (Lawson # 100287) – 1000mL bag inhalation water
4. R8005 (Lawson # 457724) – 2000mL bag irrigation water

Wisconsin Sites

1. 2D0737 (IREQ # 286936) – 2000mL bag inhalation water. (Standard order, order as available)
2. CHB0010 (IREQ # 426043) – 1000mL bottle inhalation water
3. 2D0735X (IREQ # 100287) – 1000mL bag inhalation water
4. 2B0306 (IREQ # 102809) – 2000mL bag injection water
5. 2B0304X (IREQ # 102808) – 1000mL bag injection water
6. 2B7114X (IREQ # 103027) – 1000mL bag irritation water

Sites should be limiting supply orders to support a 3-day supply of water for inhalation.