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CONFLUENCE HEALTH WORKING PROACTIVELY TO ADDRESS NATIONWIDE IV SOLUTION SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION

Wenatchee, WA: Confluence Health announced today that it will be making several changes to proactively address the nationwide IV solution supply chain disruption affecting healthcare facilities across the country. Efforts are underway to ensure that, despite the shortage, Confluence Health will keep enough fluids on-hand to be able to continue to provide the urgent or emergency care needed by the North Central Washington community, in addition to daily needs.

“Our core goal as we address this supply chain disruption is to make sure that we are able to maintain enough fluids on-hand so that we can provide the crucial care our patients need,” commented Kelly Allen, chief nursing officer at Confluence Health. “While we are still receiving fluid shipments, the amount available to each facility has been significantly reduced nationwide to help conserve. We are proactively addressing this challenge by ensuring, despite this limitation, that our patients still receive the level of care they expect and need with minimal impact, while also making certain that emergency and critical care services are not interrupted.”

As [previously announced in a press release](#) from the Washington State Hospital Association, the nationwide shortage is due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene on the Baxter facility in North Carolina, a major manufacturer of the various types of IV solutions used daily in healthcare facilities across the country. This facility supplies approximately 60% of the national usage, which amounts to nearly 1.5 million bags daily. While not currently clear how long this disruption will last, it is anticipated that efforts to address the impact will likely last until the Baxter facility is able to resume their previous level of production, possibly until the end of the year.

“In order to be able to maintain the level of fluids on-hand that is needed to address emergencies or care that cannot wait, we will be delaying some elective cases that require a large amount of fluids,” explained Dr. James Murray, chief medical officer for Confluence Health. “While we never like to reschedule surgeries due to the disruption this brings to our patients, we need to prioritize emergency services for our communities. We hope to only delay these elective procedures by a few weeks to help us to build up our fluid reserves. Patients affected will be directly contacted by our patient services teams to help reschedule, as needed.”

About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence Health is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

For More Information

Adam MacDonald, *Corporate Communications Program Manager*
adam.macdonald@ConfluenceHealth.org

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