

Overview

Conservation strategies in the healthcare supply chain are essential for reducing costs, minimizing waste, and ensuring resource availability. They also enhance clinical quality, sustainability, and support crisis preparedness by optimizing supply utilization and standardization.

Saline Conservation Strategies

Pre-Filled Saline Flush Syringes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Align ml size to the task at hand<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 10 mls for central lines, 3 or 5 mls for IV starts, peripheral IV flushing, etc● Evaluate the clinical necessity for vascular access<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ use devices with the least number of lumens and ports● Restrict access to pre-filled syringes by stocking in a controlled area such as medication rooms.● Do not stock in multiple locations, including drawers, pockets, and carts.● Do not perform scheduled flushes; only before and after med administration
Saline Bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do not use KVO orders or pre-spike bags, just in case.● Establish clear criteria for administering IV Fluids● Evaluate alternative administration routes; include pharmacy and nursing● Evaluate the clinical necessity of vascular access<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ use devices with the least number of lumens and ports● Evaluate transitioning the patient to PO fluid often and as appropriate.● Maintain the integrity of outer wrapping.● Place in controlled storage.● Prevent waste when warming fluid by following manufacturers' IFU<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ some can still be used once returned unopened to room temp● Review all pre-checked infusion order sets with providers for removal
Irrigation Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do not use Irrigation Solutions as IV solutions.● Maintain the integrity of outer wrapping.● Place in controlled storage.● Prevent waste by properly labeling solutions in the fluid warmer.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Some manufacturers' irrigation solutions can be used even after they reach the maximum time stored in a warmer.○ Return solutions to room temp and use as directed as long as the outer wrapping is intact and the manufacturer IFU states it is appropriate● Explore alternative options for wound washes- work with WOCN.

Relevant Resources

Complete information can be found in the [Blue.Point Clinical Overview](#) for the following utilization studies: Pre-Filled Saline Flush Syringes, Normal Saline, and Irrigation Solutions.

[AHVAP-AORN Resource Center](#)

[ASHP](#) Guidance Document