NHIA Alert: Intravenous (IV) Fat Emulsion Shortage Update  
February 4, 2013

The current shortage of IV Fat Emulsion (IVFE) in the U.S. has been ongoing since mid-2010, and as all providers who supply parenteral nutrition to home-based patients are aware, has intensified over the past several weeks. This shortage is related to a number of factors, including:

- Only one manufacturer, Baxter, is currently able to supply IV fat emulsion to the U.S. market (INTRALIPID 20% and 30%, which is currently on allocation).
- The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Drug Shortages Division has implemented a process allowing for “temporary importation” of drugs similar to those approved for use in the U.S., when a shortage poses a threat to patient health.
  - A challenge with “temporary importation” of IVFE is the limited number of products manufactured outside the U.S. that are “similar enough” to IVFE product sold in this country.
  - ASPEN and NHIA have contacted the FDA, requesting their prompt action in alleviating the current IVFE shortage, and will share additional information as it becomes available.

Steps Providers Can Take in the Current IV Fat Emulsion Shortage:

- Baxter issued a letter to their U.S. customers, explaining that during the current shortage, INTRALIPID 20% allocations are in place. Customers who had been ordering these products from a wholesaler or distributor must now call Baxter directly to secure needed product at 1-888-229-0001. Please reference the Baxter Letter to U.S. Customers for additional information.
- The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) gathered a group of clinical experts in 2010 to compose recommendations for IVFE management during a national shortage. The purpose of these recommendations is to assist providers in prioritizing the available supply of IVFE. The recommendations can be accessed at: http://www.nutritioncare.org/Professional_Resources/Information_to_Use_in_the_Event_of_an_Intravenous_Fat_Emulsion_Shortage/

Drug Shortage-Related Resources:

- The American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) Drug Shortage website provides updates regarding current and resolved shortages, as well as a portal for submitting new drug shortages as providers encounter them: http://www.ashp.org/menu/DrugShortages
- ASPEN Drug Shortage website: http://www.nutritioncare.org/Professional_Resources/Drug_Shortages_Update/