

## IMPORTANT DRUG INFORMATION

April 2014

### **Subject: Temporary Importation of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection in VIAFLO (non-PVC) Containers**

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Due to current critical shortage of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection in the U.S. market, Baxter Healthcare Corporation (Baxter) is coordinating with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase the availability of the drug. Baxter has initiated temporary importation of a foreign Sodium Chloride 0.9% Injection Solution for Intravenous Infusion in VIAFLO non-polyvinyl chloride (non-PVC) containers manufactured at Baxter's Bieffe Medital, Sabinanigo, Spain facility and marketed within the European Union.

At this time, FDA is not objecting to the importation and distribution of Baxter's Sodium Chloride 0.9% Injection Solution for Intravenous Infusion to address the critical shortage of Sodium Chloride 0.9% Injection. Importation or distribution of Baxter's Sodium Chloride 0.9% Injection Solution for Intravenous Infusion by any entity other than Baxter is not within the scope of this decision and may be subject to enforcement action by the FDA. FDA has not approved this product in the United States.

Effective immediately, Baxter will offer the Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion in VIAFLO (non-PVC) containers in the following volumes and quantities:

<b>Product</b>	<b>VIAFLO (non-PVC) Container</b>
Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion, 250 mL	30 bags per carton
Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion, 500 mL	20 bags per carton
Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion, 1000 mL (1L)	10 bags per carton

### **Indications and Usage and Dosage Administration**

Baxter's Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion in the VIAFLO (non-PVC) containers is the same formulation and concentration of active ingredient (sodium chloride) as the 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection products currently approved by the U.S. FDA in the VIAFLEX (PVC) and AVIVA (non-PVC) containers. As such, clinical practice pertaining to indication, usage and dosage administration for Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion in VIAFLO (non-PVC) containers is the same as with VIAFLEX (PVC) and AVIVA (non-PVC) containers.

However, before prescribing, healthcare providers should be aware of some key differences between the VIAFLEX (PVC), AVIVA (non-PVC) and VIAFLO (non-PVC) container packaging and labeling. Healthcare providers should refer to the product package inserts before use. Key differences are highlighted in the attached [Product Comparison Tables](#) as follows:

- [Table 1](#): Key Differences in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Products
- [Table 2](#): Comparison of Container Labels
- [Table 3](#): Comparison of Carton Labels

It is also important to note the following:

- The injection/medication ports are similar across the VIAFLEX (PVC), AVIVA (non-PVC), and VIAFLO (non-PVC) containers. The VIAFLO (non-PVC) administration port system is fully compatible with IV set spike heads that meet the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) standards and with Baxter IV sets marketed in the United States.
- Prior to use, it is important to check for leaks by squeezing the inner bag firmly. If leaks are found, discard solution as sterility may be impaired. Additionally, check to see that solution is clear and free of foreign matter. Discard the solution if solution is not clear.
- VIAFLO (non-PVC) imported container and carton labeling includes barcodes; however, the barcodes may not register accurately in the U.S. scanning systems. Institutions should manually input the product into their systems and confirm that barcode systems do not provide incorrect information when the product is scanned. Alternative procedures should be followed to assure that the correct drug product is being used and administered to individual patients.
- Please review container labels carefully to avoid potential volume selection errors. For example, the US-approved Viaflex 1 L product and the imported 500 mL Viaflo product are of similar bag size and shape.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or the use of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection in the VIAFLO (non-PVC) container, please contact Baxter's Medical Information Service at 1-800-933-0303. To place an order, please contact Baxter's Center for Service by calling 1-888-229-0001.

To report product quality issues please contact Baxter Product Surveillance at 1-800-437-5176. To report adverse events associated with 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, please call Baxter at 1-866-888-2472, or fax: 1-800-759-1801. Adverse events that may be related to the use of this product may also be reported to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program either online, by regular mail or by fax.

- **Online:** [www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm)1
- **Regular Mail:** use postage-paid FDA form 3500 available at: [www.fda.gov/MedWatch/getforms.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedWatch/getforms.htm)2. Mail to MedWatch 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787
- **Fax:** 1-800-FDA-0178

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Progar  
Marketing Strategy and Operations  
Medication Delivery US Region  
Baxter Healthcare Corporation

Baxter, Aviva, Viaflex and Viaflo are trademarks of Baxter International Inc

## Product Comparison Tables

**Table 1. Key Differences in 0.9% Sodium Chloride Products**

Differences	VIAFLEX (PVC)	AVIVA (non-PVC)	VIAFLO (non-PVC)
<b>Product name</b> presentation: “Injection, USP” vs “Intravenous Infusion BP”	0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP	0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP	Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v Intravenous Infusion BP
<b>Content description</b>	<u>Package insert and Container label:</u> Each 100 mL contains 900 mg Sodium Chloride, USP	<u>Package insert and Container label:</u> Each 100 mL contains 900 mg Sodium Chloride, USP	<u>Summary Product Characteristics:</u> Sodium Chloride 9.0 g/L. Each mL contains 9 mg sodium chloride. <u>Container Labels:</u> Formula per 250 mL – Sodium Chloride 2.25 g Formula per 500 mL - Sodium Chloride 4.5 g Formula per 1000 mL – Sodium Chloride 9.0 g
<b>Content description</b>	<u>Package insert and Container label:</u> mEq per mL	<u>Package insert and Container label:</u> mEq per mL	<u>Summary Product Characteristics:</u> mmol/L* <u>Container Labels:</u> mmol per 250 mL mmol per 500 mL mmol per 1000 mL  *1 mmol Sodium Chloride = 1 mEq Sodium Chloride
<b>Storage conditions</b>	25°C/77°F	25°C/77°F	No storage statement present European products which are intended for room temperature storage do not contain storage statements  <b>Product should be stored at 25°C/77°F</b>
<b>Administration port closures</b>	Pull off port protector (blue color) 	Pull off port protector (natural/gum color) 	Twist off port protector (white color) 

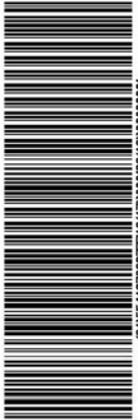
**Table 2. Comparison of Container Labels - 500 mL\***

<p><b>0.9% Sodium Chloride USP VIAFLEX (PVC) Container (US FDA Licensed)</b></p>	<p><b>0.9% Sodium Chloride USP AVIVA (non-PVC) Container (US FDA Licensed)</b></p>	<p><b>Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v VIAFLO (non-PVC) Container (Special Import)**</b></p>		
<p>LOT                      EXP</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2B1323 1 NDC 0338-0048-03 DIN 00060208</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection USP</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>500 mL</b></p> <p>Each 100 mL CONTAINS 900 mg Sodium Chloride USP pH 5.0 (4.5 to 7.0) mEq/L Sodium 154 Chloride 154 Osmolality 308 mOsmol/L (calc) STERILE NONPYROGENIC SINGLE DOSE CONTAINER ADDITIVES MAY BE INCOMPATIBLE CONSULT WITH PHARMACIST IF AVAILABLE WHEN INTRODUCING ADDITIVES USE ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE MIX THOROUGHLY DO NOT STORE DOSAGE INTRAVENOUSLY AS DIRECTED BY A PHYSICIAN SEE DIRECTIONS CAUTIONS SQUEEZE AND INSPECT INNER BAG WHICH MAINTAINS PRODUCT STERILITY DISCARD IF LEAKS ARE FOUND MUST NOT BE USED IN SERIES CONNECTIONS DO NOT USE UNLESS SOLUTION IS CLEAR Rx ONLY STORE UNIT IN MOISTURE BARRIER OVERWRAP AT ROOM TEMPERATURE (25°C/77°F) UNTIL READY TO USE AVOID EXCESSIVE HEAT SEE INSERT</p> <p>VIAFLEX CONTAINER PL 146 PLASTIC</p> <p>BAXTER VIAFLEX AND PL 146 ARE TRADEMARKS OF BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC</p> <p>FOR PRODUCT INFORMATION 1-800-933-0303</p> <p><b>Baxter</b> BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORPORATION DEERFIELD IL 60015 USA MADE IN USA</p> <p>DISTRIBUTED IN CANADA BY <b>Baxter Corporation</b> MISSISSAUGA ON L5N 0C2</p>	<p>LOT                      EXP</p> <p style="text-align: right;">500 mL                      6E1323 1 NDC 0338-6304-03</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection USP</b></p> <p>Each 100 mL CONTAINS 900 mg Sodium Chloride USP pH 5.5 (4.5 to 7.0) mEq/L Sodium 154 Chloride 154 Osmolality 308 mOsmol/L (calc) STERILE NONPYROGENIC SINGLE DOSE CONTAINER ADDITIVES MAY BE INCOMPATIBLE CONSULT WITH PHARMACIST IF AVAILABLE WHEN INTRODUCING ADDITIVES USE ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE MIX THOROUGHLY DO NOT STORE DOSAGE INTRAVENOUSLY AS DIRECTED BY A PHYSICIAN SEE DIRECTIONS CAUTIONS SQUEEZE AND INSPECT INNER BAG WHICH MAINTAINS PRODUCT STERILITY DISCARD IF LEAKS ARE FOUND MUST NOT BE USED IN SERIES CONNECTIONS DO NOT USE UNLESS SOLUTION IS CLEAR <b>Rx ONLY</b> STORE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE (25°C/77°F) UNTIL READY TO USE AVOID EXCESSIVE HEAT SEE INSERT</p> <p><b>Baxter</b>                      BAXTER AVIVA AND THE AVIVA CRESCENT DESIGN ARE TRADEMARKS OF BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC</p> <p><b>Baxter Healthcare Corporation</b>                      DEERFIELD IL 60015 USA                      FOR PRODUCT INFORMATION 1-800-933-0303</p> <p>MADE IN USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AVIVA CONTAINER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Baxter</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">FE1323</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Viaflo</b>                      500 ml</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v Intravenous Infusion BP</p> <p>pH 5.5 (approx)</p> <p>100 Osmolality 308 mOsm/l (approx) Sterile non pyrogenic Single dose Solution for infusion</p> <p>150 Formula per 500 ml (approx) Sodium Chloride 4.5 g Water for Injections</p> <p>200</p> <p>250 For intravenous administration Store out of reach and sight of children Do not use unless solution is clear and container undamaged Check additive compatibility with both the solution and container prior to use</p> <p>300 Thorough and careful aseptic mixing of any additive is mandatory Do not remove from overwrap until ready for use Discard any unused portion after first use Do not reconnect partially used bags For use under medical supervision</p> <p>350</p> <p>400 UN-35-01-356</p> <p>450 MA 161/00403 PL 0116/0334 PA 167/8/15 Baxter Healthcare Ltd Thetford Norfolk IP24 3SE United Kingdom</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>50</p> <p>Isotonic</p> <p>100</p> <p>150</p> <p>200</p> <p>250</p> <p>300</p> <p>350</p> <p>400</p> <p>450</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Lot                      Expiry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 413760 277714</p>	<p>Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v Intravenous Infusion BP</p> <p>pH 5.5 (approx)</p> <p>100 Osmolality 308 mOsm/l (approx) Sterile non pyrogenic Single dose Solution for infusion</p> <p>150 Formula per 500 ml (approx) Sodium Chloride 4.5 g Water for Injections</p> <p>200</p> <p>250 For intravenous administration Store out of reach and sight of children Do not use unless solution is clear and container undamaged Check additive compatibility with both the solution and container prior to use</p> <p>300 Thorough and careful aseptic mixing of any additive is mandatory Do not remove from overwrap until ready for use Discard any unused portion after first use Do not reconnect partially used bags For use under medical supervision</p> <p>350</p> <p>400 UN-35-01-356</p> <p>450 MA 161/00403 PL 0116/0334 PA 167/8/15 Baxter Healthcare Ltd Thetford Norfolk IP24 3SE United Kingdom</p>	<p>50</p> <p>Isotonic</p> <p>100</p> <p>150</p> <p>200</p> <p>250</p> <p>300</p> <p>350</p> <p>400</p> <p>450</p>
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\*Comparison of container labels for the 500 mL products is provided as a representative sample. Labels are similar across product sizes

\*\*Viaflo product codes may carry a "D" suffix (ex:FE1323D)

**Table 3. Comparison of Carton Labels - 500 mL\***

VIAFLO (non-PVC) 20 x 500 mL**	
<p><b>FE1323 20 x 500 ml (≈ 12.5 kg)</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v</b></p> </div> <p><b>Intravenous Infusion BP</b></p> <p><b>Formula per 500 ml</b>            Sodium Chloride 4.5 g            Water for Injections            Osmolarity 308 mOsm/l (approx)            mmol per 500 ml (approx)            Sodium Chloride 77            pH: 5.5 (approx)            IV administration.  <b>Read package leaflet before use.</b>            Keep out of the reach and sight of children.            Do not reconnect partially used bags.  <b>PL00116/0334</b>  <b>PA167/B/15</b>  <b>MA161/00403</b>  <b>Baxter Healthcare Ltd.,</b>            Caxton Way, Thetford, Norfolk,            IP24 3SE, United Kingdom.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PZZE54 XX-0001</p> <p><b>LOT: XXXXXXXX</b> <b>EXP: XXXXXXXX</b></p>  <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: small;">(01)554137627719(17)XXXX00(10)XXXXXXX</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>FE1323</b>  <b>20 x 500 ml</b>  <b>(≈ 12.5 kg)</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>Sodium Chloride 0.9% w/v</b></p> </div> <p><b>Intravenous Infusion BP</b></p>  <p><b>LOT: XXXXXXXX</b> <b>EXP: XXXXXXXX</b></p>
VIAFLEX (PVC) 24 x 500 mL	
<p>2B1323Q</p> <p>0.9% SODIUM CHLORIDE INJECTION, USP</p> <p>EXP XXXXX</p> <p>LOT XXXXX</p>	<p>24-500 ML</p> <p>VIAFLEX® CONTAINER</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>SECONDARY BAR CODE</p> <p>(17) YYMM00 (10) XXXXX</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>PRIMARY BAR CODE</p> <p>(01) 50303380049030</p> </div>
AVIVA (non-PVC) 24 x 500 mL	
<p>6E1323</p> <p>0.9% SODIUM CHLORIDE INJECTION, USP</p> <p>EXP XXXXX</p> <p>LOT XXXXX</p>	<p>24-500 ML</p> <p>AVIVA CONTAINER</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>SECONDARY BAR CODE</p> <p>(17) YYMM00 (10) XXXXX</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>PRIMARY BAR CODE</p> <p>(01) 50303386304034</p> </div>

\*Comparison of carton labels for the 500 mL products is provided as a representative sample. Labels are similar across product sizes

\*\*Viaflo products may carry a "D" suffix (ex: FE1323D)