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**To:** ILS/ALS Agencies  
**From:** Travis Wilson, BS, NRP, LI, EMS System Director  
**Date:** 09/30/2019  
**Subject:** IV Fluid Warmers

Agencies,

There are changes in regard to how warmed IV fluid bags will be handled to align with best practices. Below you will see new requirements as well as system recommendations. The requirements will be reviewed during inspections and must be met. The recommendations are what the office recommends as best practice. Your agency may elect to go above the recommendations.

#### **Requirements**

IV fluids shall only be kept on a fluid warmer for no more than **14 days**. After 14 days fluids must be removed from the warmers. The removed fluids may be used for patients, but they cannot be put back on the fluid warmer once they have been warmed. It is also required that any fluids kept on a fluid warmer be **double bagged**. Agencies should label each bag with the date that it is placed on the fluid warmer. Agencies shall only use system approved IV warming devices to heat fluid. Any alternative method to heat fluid is not approved and could be potentially harmful to patients. Bags left on after 14 days or that are not double bagged breakdown chemically and become less effective and potentially harmful to patients. It is important that agencies are monitoring fluids on IV warmers on a regular basis.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended the IV fluids be warmed during the cold months (October-April) or during periods of expected cold weather. At minimum 2 bags should be placed on the IV warmer during that time. It is at the agency discretion how many bags of fluid are kept on the warmer during the summer months.





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