



Monroe Livingston Region Program Agency

Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester

Mailing Address: 601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655, Rochester, NY 14642

Physical Address: 120 Corporate Woods, Suite 100, Rochester, NY 14623

Phone: (585) 463-2900 Fax: (585) 463-2966 E-Mail: mlrems@urmc.rochester.edu

To: All ALS Agencies

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P *JT Cushman*
Regional Medical Director

Date: March 30, 2012

Re: Advisory 12-05: SAFETY ALERT - Infusion Labeling

Look at the picture. Normal saline, right? No. Actually, its dopamine. This near-miss happened this week at a local hospital by highly skilled and competent paramedics. The unlabeled infusion was recognized quickly by a pharmacist and removed, however with the transfer of patient care we can see where confusion or misunderstanding could result in this bag being run wide-open and potentially cause harm.

ALS agencies and providers are reminded that ALL fluids with additives (dopamine, magnesium, solumedrol, even phenergan or morphine) MUST be labeled so that it is clear that an additive is present. This is extremely important for patient safety and to assure that all personnel that may be caring for the patient knows what is being infused.

Agencies are encouraged to keep highly visible labels available with their medications to facilitate the labeling of fluids with additives to include the medication added, the amount added, the date, time, and who mixed the medication to facilitate patient safety.

With questions, please contact the Regional Program Agency.

