

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

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TO: Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Providers, Other Health Care Facilities, Local Health Departments, Regional Offices

FROM: Division of Epidemiology

Health Advisory:

Improper use of simulation intravenous fluids not intended for human or animal use

Please distribute immediately to the Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Employee Health Service, Infectious Disease Department, Pediatrics, Medical Director, Director of Nursing, Laboratory Service, Pharmacy, Purchasing and all patient care areas.

NYSDOH is investigating two reports of patients who were administered simulation intravenous fluids at an urgent care facility in New York State. The fluids, produced by Wallcur (www.wallcur.com), are labelled not for use in humans or animals. The urgent care facility reports ordering normal saline through their regular distributor. At this stage in the investigation it is unclear why they received the simulation product.

The product, “Practi-0.9% Sodium Chloride”, which contains distilled water, was administered intravenously to two patients who developed a febrile illness during administration; both patients were hospitalized, and one patient has a diagnosis of sepsis and disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). When illness developed in the second patient, staff at the urgent care facility examined the intravenous (IV) bag and noticed visible material floating in the solution. Staff then noted that the bag was labeled ‘For Simulation Only.’ Additional details and testing results are pending.

Providers are reminded to carefully examine the labeling of IV fluids to ensure that they are intended for human use and are not intended for simulation and educational uses.

If any urgent care center, hospital pharmacy or other healthcare provider has bags of “Practi-0.9% Sodium Chloride”, efforts should be made to ensure that they are not used for patients. If any were administered to patients please call the local health department immediately. LHD contact information is available at <http://goo.gl/wfRgjb> and the New York City Health Department can be reached at 1-866-692-3641.

Pictures of Wallcur “Practi-0.9% Sodium Chloride.”

