



October 11, 2024 Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

[Baxter offers recovery timeline after major IV fluid plant closure due to Hurricane Helene](#)

“Following the recent closure of its manufacturing facility in Marion, North Carolina, from flooding caused by Hurricane Helene, Baxter International is providing some clarity on remediation timelines. Wednesday, Baxter said (PDF) in a securities filing that its goal is to restart production at the North Cove facility in North Carolina in phases and to reach 90% to 100% of the amount allocated for customers for certain intravenous solution products by the end of 2024.”

[DR2 Hurricane Resources and Tools](#)

“Following the recent events of Hurricane Helene, the DR2 Program wanted to reshare a previous bulletin sent out earlier this summer with resources pertinent to hurricanes and their aftermath. We’re also happy to highlight several mental health-related resources among other tools created by our federal partners, and for those of you directly impacted, or working in communities, we share response tools from the Worker Training Program.”

[Hurricanes linked to higher death rates for 15 years after storms pass](#)

“U.S. tropical cyclones, including hurricanes, indirectly cause thousands of deaths for nearly 15 years after a storm. Researchers estimate an average U.S. tropical cyclone indirectly causes 7,000 to 11,000 excess deaths. All told, they estimate tropical storms since 1930 have contributed to between 3.6 million and 5.2 million deaths in the U.S. -- more than all deaths nationwide from motor vehicle accidents, infectious diseases, or battle deaths in wars during the same period.”

In Storms Like Hurricane Helene, Flooded Industrial Sites and Toxic Chemical Releases Are a Silent and Growing Threat

“Hundreds of industrial facilities with toxic pollutants were in Hurricane Helene’s path as the powerful storm flooded communities across the Southeast in late September 2024. In disasters like these, the industrial damage can unfold over days, and residents may not hear about releases of toxic chemicals into water or the air until days or weeks later, if they find out at all.”

FDA considers temporary importation of IV products: 6 shortage updates

“The FDA may move to allow the temporary importation of intravenous fluids and related products from overseas manufacturing sites to address critical shortages exacerbated by Hurricane Helene, the agency told Becker’s Oct. 9.”

Lethal Marburg virus is on the rise in Rwanda: why scientists are worried

“It is an outbreak of superlatives. One of the deadliest known viruses, Marburg, has emerged in Rwanda, killing 13 people and sickening 58 in one of the biggest Marburg outbreaks ever documented. Scientists expect the outbreak to be curtailed quickly — but they warn that, overall, Marburg is on the rise.”

Mental health app could help prevent depression in young people at high risk

“A cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) app has been found to significantly prevent increases in depression in young people who are at high risk -- and could be implemented as a cost effective public mental health measure. Globally, concern is growing about the high and steadily increasing rates of anxiety and depression in young people. Effective and scalable ways of preventing poor mental health in this group are needed, and digital tools such as mobile apps have been proposed as part of the solution.”

Poor Arm Position May Significantly Skew BP Readings

“Common arm positions for blood pressure (BP) measurements that stray from guidelines — arm in lap or hanging at side — led to substantial overestimation of hypertension in a study published in JAMA Internal Medicine. Guidelines for BP measurement recommend arm support on a desk with the midcuff at heart level. Overestimating BP can lead to

unnecessary patient follow-up and overtreatment. Hypertension affects approximately 86 million adults in the United States and more than one billion people globally.”

CMS proposes \$2 Medicare drug list: 5 things to know

“CMS published a list of generic drugs to be included under its proposed Medicare \$2 Drug List Model Oct. 9.”

Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings

October 15, 2024 (\$40) - When Words Aren't Enough: Mastering the Art of Compassionate Companionship

(Virtual. Registration Required.)

November 7, 2024 (free) - Naloxone Administration Training and Certification

(In-person at 1202 W. 16th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202. Registration Required. Email with your name and preferred time- 10 am, 11am, or 1 pm.)

Events

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