USE OF NON-STERILE PRODUCT CAUSES PATIENT HEALTH ISSUES

Intravenous product meant for training only

A non-sterile product that was meant for clinical simulation (training) only was administered intravenously to at least 40 patients, one of whom died and at least 17 of whom became seriously ill.

“It seems like it’s not just one single mistake. There could have been instances where ordering was done by office staff who didn’t know the difference, as well as instances where the right product was ordered but they received the wrong stuff.”

- Dr. Alexander J. Kallen, medical officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The FDA has requested that all healthcare facilities and product distributors individually inspect saline product to be administered to patients to verify that it is sterile and not intended for training purposes. The manufacturer of the training products has asked its distributors to add language to its advertisements specifying that they are for training, and are not sterile for patient use. In the meantime, the FDA is working with manufacturers of sterile saline to increase the supply, and has provided links to available supply on their website.

What should you do? If you are involved in an IV transfusion, either as a patient or a practitioner, check what’s being delivered and ensure it matches your doctor’s order.

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