



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM): *Joint Statement on IV Fluids* *16 August 2024 - Sydney*

Health Ministers met today in Sydney and discussed ongoing management of shortages of IV fluids.

Ministers noted the global supply limitations of IV fluids due to unexpected increases in demand and manufacturing capacity constraints. Shortages of IV fluids, while easing, are expected to continue through 2024.

Ministers outlined the steps being taken to address supply in Australia and sought to provide reassurance to all Australians that supply challenges are being addressed and that health services are continuing.

Jurisdictions are bringing unprecedented collaboration to the issue, with a cross-jurisdictional Response Group convened by all states and territories and the Commonwealth and including the views of the broader health system through representation from private hospitals and primary care.

This Response Group will continue to meet on a weekly basis, or more frequently if required, while supply remains constrained in Australia.

The Response Group has already taken immediate steps to address supply and distribution issues in jurisdictions agreeing to:

- **Data and Transparency:** Sharing data across jurisdictions on usage and supply, and ensuring that producers and suppliers of IV fluids in Australia are providing data on their current supply and production forecasts, to better understand the severity and duration of the shortage.
- **Distribution and Logistics:** Ensuring there is a coordinated national approach to distribution across the jurisdictional supply chains.
- **Coordination and partnership:** Partnering across government to work with manufacturers and distributors to help them address supply issues.
- **Clinical Guidance and Communications:** Agreeing consistent messaging across all jurisdictions to support appropriate usage while supply remains constrained.

Ministers reiterated that the Response Group will continue to identify additional procurement opportunities while supply remains constrained.

The Response Group was directed by Ministers to consider options to maintain supply of IV fluids within Australia.