



# THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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Frances Barton  
Team Leader – Medicines Assessment  
Product Regulation  
Medsafe  
Ministry of Health

**By Email:** [Frances\\_Barton@moh.govt.nz](mailto:Frances_Barton@moh.govt.nz)

Dear Frances

### **Baxter Fluid bags for registration**

- AHB 6066 = 0.9% sodium chloride + 5% glucose + 20mmol/L potassium chloride in 1000ml
- AHB 6024 = 0.45% sodium chloride + 5% glucose + 20mmol/L potassium chloride in 1000ml

On behalf of the Paediatric and Therapeutics Special Interest Group of the NZ Paediatric Society and with support of Paediatricians across New Zealand, we would like Medsafe to expedite the funding of Baxter fluid bags. Applications for registration of these fluids were submitted to Medsafe on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 by Baxter Healthcare Ltd.

Availability of the above fluids will remove the need for nurses to make up fluid bags on the wards for the vast majority of children > 1 month of age. We consider it safer to use a commercial bag than to have nurses make up or make additions to fluid bags on the ward. In CDHB, a recent audit of nurses preparing bags of fluid on the wards found that the average time was 5 – 10 minutes for two nurses to make up one bag. Eliminating the need for this process would release significant nursing time for other aspects of patient care.

It is vital that we work towards removing the need for potassium being added in the wards. This is a significant safety issue. The risk of inadvertent doses of KCl being added to fluid bags include ventricular arrhythmias (and death), and the VT complication has occurred in NZ in the last decade.

The availability of these Baxter bags, which are the standard of care across paediatric services in New Zealand and many other countries, will address the majority of situations where potassium is needed.

Children with specific needs unmet by these standard solutions would still need specific fluids made up, but this would be done in the HDU/ICU environment only.

We welcome your response to this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Louise McDermott  
Chairperson  
Pharmacist and Therapeutics SIG  
Paediatric Society of NZ

This letter is supported by:  
Dr Greg Williams, Service Clinical Director, Star ship hospital  
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