



October 11, 2024

Re: Sterile Water / Saline Shortage

Dear Health Care Professional,

Olympus recognizes that there is a shortage of saline and sterile water in the U.S. due to damages caused by Hurricane Helene and that this shortage is affecting healthcare facilities. This is an unfortunate situation with potential widespread impact.

In the interest of patient safety, we advise that health care practitioners adhere to the guidelines specified in our Instructions for Use (IFUs) when using Olympus products. However, in light of the current sterile water and saline shortage, we understand that customers may have questions.

Olympus has not tested non-sterile fluid sources. We encourage healthcare facilities to convene a multi-disciplinary team to perform a risk assessment for the duration of this disruption. This team should evaluate whether another water source (such as distilled, spring, deionized, filtered, etc.) could be safely used for procedures during this disruption.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a [letter to healthcare](#) leaders regarding the supply chain disruption, providing updates and guidance on addressing the issue. If you have any additional questions, please contact your local Olympus sales representative or the Olympus Technical Assistance Center at 1-800-848-9024 (United States) or 1-800-387-0437 (Canada).

Medical Safety
Olympus Corporation of the Americas