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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IV Fluid Supply Shortage Impacting Local Healthcare Services

Wadena, Minn.—October 9, 2024,—Hurricane Helene caused major damage to a facility in the southeast US that produces much of the supply for intravenous (IV) fluids, which are a critical component for patient care. They are used to administer medications, provide hydration, and deliver essential nutrients to patients. The disruption in the supply chain is expected to have significant impacts on the availability of these fluids for hospitals and clinics across the country, including Astera Health.

The leadership team at Astera Health has been working diligently to address the escalating IV fluid shortage impacting the facility. With the pending Hurricane Milton, the production facility in Florida may be impacted again this week which would make the shortage worse.

Astera Health is actively working to minimize the impact on patient care. Our team is in constant communication with suppliers, regional health networks, and state agencies to secure alternative sources and ration our existing supplies effectively. In the meantime, we are implementing several measures to conserve IV fluids, including:

- **Prioritizing Critical Patients:** We are prioritizing the use of IV fluids for patients with the most urgent medical needs, such as those in the Emergency Department.
- **Using Oral and Alternative Hydration Methods:** For patients who can tolerate oral hydration, we are shifting to alternatives like oral rehydration solutions, when medically appropriate.

“Our team is working hard to coordinate care for planned procedures, some of which may be postponed if they are not time sensitive. Being prepared for critical and emergent patients is our top priority at this time,” stated Joel Beiswenger, CEO and President of Astera Health.

Despite these efforts, community members may experience some delays in care or changes in the way treatments are delivered, particularly when it comes to time-sensitive or non-emergency procedures. Patient safety is always a top concern and Astera Health is doing everything possible to ensure that all patients receive the care they need during this challenging time.

ABOUT ASTERA HEALTH

Astera Health is a private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wadena, Minnesota since 1925. It offers care services such as primary health, surgery, cancer care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation. Astera Health operates a hospital and medical clinic in Wadena, and serves the counties of Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail through five satellite clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka and Verndale. Visit asterahealth.org. to learn more.

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