

# FAWKS NEWS

## Saline is Saline is Saline.....Right?

### Mislabeling

When medication is added to a prefilled saline flush without applying a secondary label

### Reconstitution

Adding a liquid diluent to a powdered medication and dissolving the medication to create a solution

### Dilution

Adding diluent to a solution to reduce concentration

### Flushing

Method of clearing intravenous, central or arterial lines of any medication and/or checking for line patency



#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

For use as a sterile isotonic injection for flushing compatible intravenous tubing and / or indwelling access devices only. The McKesson Med Stream normal saline prefilled flush syringes are not to be used for reconstitution or dilution of medication.

To prevent **mislabeling** you should not use a saline flush to administer a medication. If the syringe leaves the preparer's hands before being administered, it might be used by another practitioner as a saline flush and result in a serious medication error. To keep in line with package labeling (see image above), saline flushes should also not be used for **reconstitution** or **dilution** purposes. Most commercially available saline flushes are regulated by the FDA as devices and not as medications meaning that while they have been approved for **flushing**, they have not been tested and approved for the reconstitution, dilution, or subsequent administration of medications.



#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

This parenteral preparation is indicated only for diluting or dissolving drugs for intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection, according to instructions of the manufacturer of the drug to be administered.



## FAWKS Call to Action!

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After thorough review of available data regarding normal saline flushes versus normal saline vials, my call to action to minimize possible medication errors and be compliant with all rules and regulations is:

- **Use normal saline flushes for the only intended use of flushing lines.**
- **Use vials of normal saline for reconstitution or dilution purposes.**

