empty bag weight was subtracted from the filled bag weight to obtain the weight, or volume, of 0.9% sodium chloride injection in the bag. The targeted volume of 496 mL was subtracted from the volume of fluid in each bag (determined in the previous step), and the excess was removed with a 60-mL syringe. Given the aforementioned variation in bag weight, this procedure produced bags that almost certainly contained 494–498 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride injection.

The routine overfilling of infusion bags necessitates that such steps be taken when their precise fluid volume must be known or adjusted.


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**Patent expiration for lansoprazole**

In our recent article forecasting drug expenditures for 2004, the patent expiration date listed for lansoprazole was 2005. This estimate was based on a review of several references, including FDA’s Web site. The manufacturer of lansoprazole, TAP Pharmaceuticals, has since provided us with documentation of patent extension through May 2009. This extension was granted pursuant to the 1984 Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act (the Hatch-Waxman Act). We regret publishing the incorrect date, but the error illustrates the complexity of estimating patent expiration. Many patent databases continue to list 2005 as the expiration date for at least certain dimensions of the lansoprazole patent.


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