



Links Medical Products Inc.

**Role of Hydra~Aid™ the Hot & Cold Beverage Thickener**  
**In the Cost and Prevention Of Dehydration**

Dehydration has various causes, but most incidents occur from diminished fluid intake. The Federal survey process for long-term care facilities notes dehydration as a sentinel event and sparks close scrutiny for fluid management and hydration protocols in all facilities. The treatment of dehydration can be costly and may require the use of intravenous fluids and other support. In a study of the costs associated with dehydration treatment a direct cost in excess of \$700.00 per episode was demonstrated - *as shown in the below cost data reported by C.S. Johnson & Associates, Inc.*

Residents with dysphagia may reject thickened beverages and reduce their intake of fluids because of the objectionable taste, color and/or grainy texture. Blind taste tests in two long term care facilities demonstrated beverages thickened with Hydra~Aid were preferred by residents over those thickened with corn starch powder.\* Hydra~Aid does not change the color or taste of beverages and has a smooth texture.

**COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TREATMENT FOR DEHYDRATION\*\***  
**(figures rounded to the nearest dollar)**

<b><u>Initial Cost</u></b>	<b>(\$)</b>
· Complete Metabolic Profile x 2	40.00
· Urine analysis	11.00
· Chest x-ray	125.00
· Chest follow-up	100.00
· RN	30.00
· Clerical	11.00
· Other Staff	22.00
<b>Initial Subtotal =</b>	<b>339.00</b>
<b><u>Per Day Supplies</u></b>	<b>(\$)</b>
· Saline	14.00
· IV Supplies	143.00
· RN Time	30.00
<b>Two-day Subtotal =</b>	<b>374.00</b>
<b>Total Cost Per Episode =</b>	<b><u>\$713.00</u></b>

**References:**

\* Johnson, C.S., The Challenge of Hydration in Dysphagia in Long-Term Care. Advance for Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists. June 12, 2006

\*\* Data on file collected in 2005 and does not include costs of new Minimum Data Set (MDS) for Change of Condition (COC), Quality Assurance (QA) or systems reinforcement administrative time.

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