

**PRO: Perioperative Goal-Directed Fluid Therapy Is an Essential Element of an Enhanced Recovery Protocol**

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**EXCERPT: Letter to the Editor**

Perioperative fluid management influences patients' outcomes. The type of fluid, the volume of fluid, and how we administer fluid all affect outcome. However, there is considerable variability in fluid administration among specialists (anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses, perioperative physicians, and intensivists) and even within individual specialties. The volume of fluid administered to a surgical or critical care patient depends to a large extent on the individual practitioner, with large interprovider and intraprovider variability. Most practitioners use clinical end points such as urine output, mean arterial blood pressure, or central venous pressure that have little to do with the hemodynamic goals of fluid administration. The end result is closer to random chaos than either art or science.