

Hospira Bacteriostatic Water: NDC Codes, Label Specs & How to Check a Vial (2026)

An independent spec sheet for Hospira bacteriostatic water: every NDC on the label, what each label section means, who else lists the product, its shortage record and how to check a vial. For mixing and dosing with [bacteriostatic water](#), see our separate guide.

Updated October 13, 2026 · PeptideDeck Editorial · Printable PDF · Independent guide, not affiliated with Pfizer or Hospira



Hospira bacteriostatic water at a glance

- **What it is.** Hospira bacteriostatic water is sterile, nonpyrogenic water for injection with benzyl alcohol added as a preservative, in a multiple-dose vial. It is labeled "Rx only" and is only for diluting or dissolving other injectable drugs^[1].
- **Two NDCs on the label.** NDC 0409-3977-03 is a tray of 25 plastic 30 mL vials with 0.9% (9 mg/mL) benzyl alcohol. NDC 0409-1093-04 is a tray of 25 glass vials holding 20 mL, with 1.1% (11 mg/mL)^[1].
- **Only the plastic vial is listed today.** In October 2026, the FDA NDC Directory and Pfizer's hospital catalog both carried 0409-3977 and not 0409-1093^[2,3,4,5].
- **One approval behind every US label.** FDA approved NDA 018802 on October 27, 1982. It is the only bacteriostatic water application listed as an active prescription product in Drugs@FDA^[6,7]. ASHP calls Pfizer the sole supplier^[8].
- **Hospira is a Pfizer company.** Pfizer completed its acquisition of Hospira on September 3, 2015^[9]. The label still reads "Distributed by Hospira, Inc., Lake Forest, IL"^[1].
- **Supply has been tight since 2021.** FDA has listed the 30 mL tray in its shortage database since December 3, 2021. ASHP opened a new shortage entry in July 2025, citing manufacturing delays^[10,8].

Contents

1. Who makes Hospira bacteriostatic water?

2. Hospira bacteriostatic water NDC codes and specs

3. The Hospira bacteriostatic water label, explained

4. What "USP" and "Rx only" mean
5. Other bacteriostatic water NDCs in the FDA directory

6. Shortage history

7. How to check a Hospira bacteriostatic water vial

8. How to look up an NDC yourself · Sources

1. Who makes Hospira bacteriostatic water?

Hospira has owned this product's approval for decades. Drugs@FDA lists Hospira as the company behind NDA 018802, "Bacteriostatic Water for Injection in Plastic Container", first approved on October 27, 1982^[6]. FDA marks it as both the reference listed drug and the reference standard for this product^[6].

Hospira itself is younger than the approval. Hospira's business was run by Abbott Laboratories until its spin-off on April 30, 2004, with headquarters at 275 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois^[11]. On February 5, 2015, Pfizer agreed to buy Hospira for \$90 a share, a total enterprise value of about \$17 billion^[12]. Pfizer announced that it had completed the deal on September 3, 2015^[9].

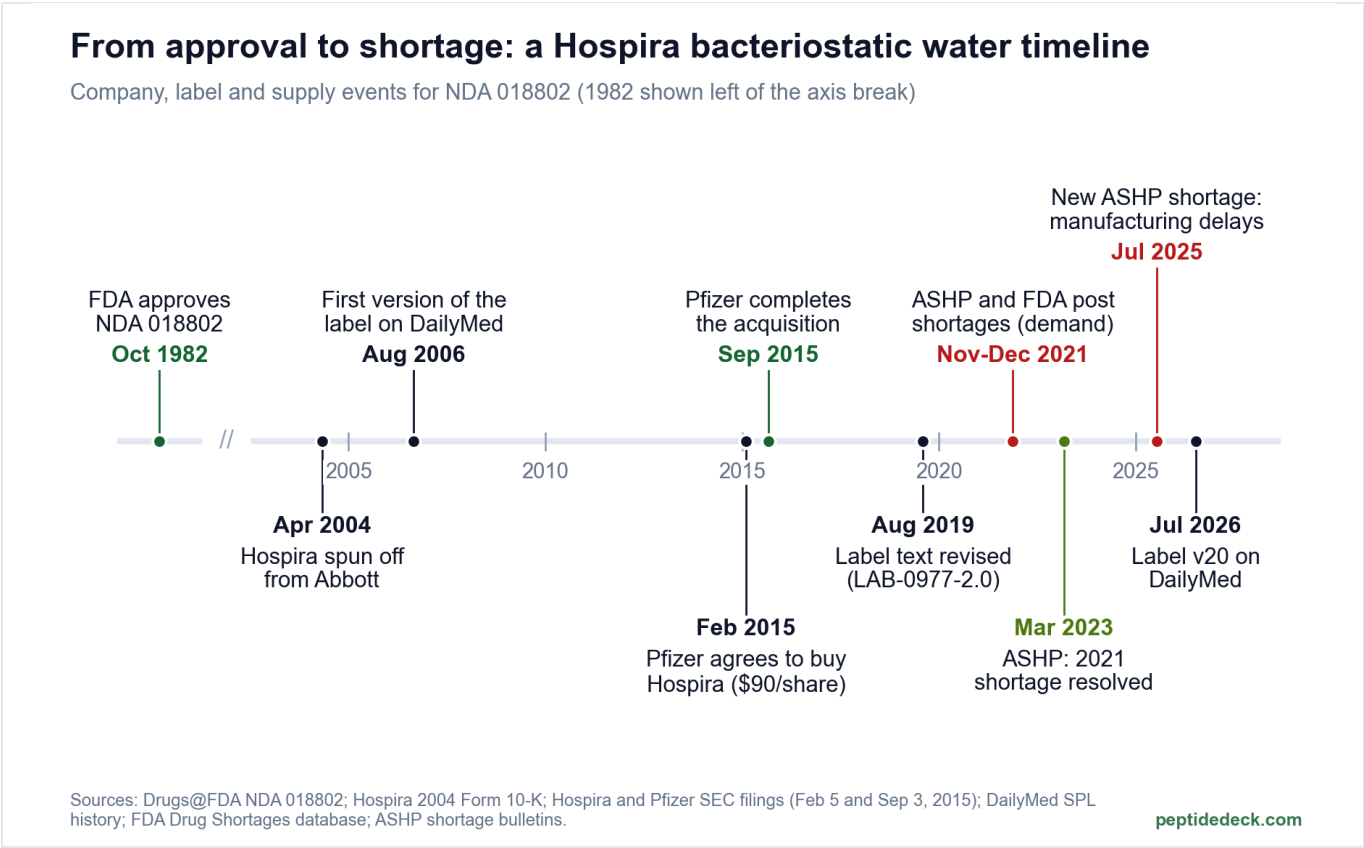


Figure 1. Company, label and supply events for Hospira bacteriostatic water. Sources: Drugs@FDA; SEC filings; DailyMed; FDA and ASHP shortage records.

Where it is made. The printed label names only the distributor: "Distributed by Hospira, Inc., Lake Forest, IL 60045 USA"^[1]. The electronic listing behind the label names three registered establishments^[13]:

Establishment named in the listing	Registered operations for both NDCs
Hospira, Inc. (DUNS 093132819)	Analysis, label, manufacture, pack

Establishment named in the listing	Registered operations for both NDCs
Pfizer Healthcare India Private Limited (DUNS 860037912)	Analysis, label, manufacture, pack
Hospira, Inc. (DUNS 030606222)	Analysis only

The listing gives company names and DUNS numbers but no street addresses, and the vial label does not say which site made a given lot. We have not named plant cities because no primary source we opened ties them to this product.

How Pfizer sells it. Pfizer's hospital catalog lists Hospira bacteriostatic water 30 mL under unit-of-sale NDC 00409-3977-03 and unit-of-use NDC 00409-3977-01. It gives the cap color as garnet, the unit of sale as a pack of 25 vials, the case as 4 x 25, and marks it non-DEHP. If you see it called Pfizer bacteriostatic water, it is the same Hospira product. On October 13, 2026 its status read "Available"^[4].

2. Hospira bacteriostatic water NDC codes and specs

The current Hospira bacteriostatic water label lists two products. They differ in container, fill, preservative strength and NDC^[1].

	Plastic vial product	Glass vial product
Tray NDC (unit of sale)	0409-3977-03	0409-1093-04
Vial NDC (contents of the tray)	0409-3977-01	0409-1093-14
Container	Multiple-dose plastic Fliptop vial; polyolefin (ethylene-propylene copolymer)	Multiple-dose glass Fliptop vial
Fill	30 mL	20 mL fill in a 30 mL vial
Benzyl alcohol	0.9% (9 mg/mL)	1.1% (11 mg/mL)
Benzyl alcohol per full vial (our arithmetic)	270 mg	220 mg
Pack	Tray of 25	Tray of 25
pH	5.7 (range 4.5 to 7.0)	5.7 (range 4.5 to 7.0)
Routes for the finished drug	IV, IM, subcutaneous	IV, IM, subcutaneous
FDA NDC Directory, Oct 2026	Listed (listing runs to Dec 31, 2027)	No match
Pfizer hospital catalog, Oct 2026	Listed, "Available"	Page not found

Container, fill, strength and pack: Hospira label^[1]. Routes: SPL data^[13]. Listing status: FDA NDC Directory^[2,3] and Pfizer Hospital US^[4,5]. Per-vial totals are fill volume times concentration.

What "30 mL" means. When people search for Hospira bacteriostatic water 30 mL, they almost always mean NDC 0409-3977: a full 30 mL plastic vial. The glass product is also a 30 mL vial, but it holds only 20 mL^[1]. If a listing says "30 mL glass", read the NDC rather than the size.

Reading a Hospira bacteriostatic water NDC

The 10-digit National Drug Code splits into three parts



Billing systems pad it to 11 digits (00409-3977-03), which is how Pfizer's catalog prints it. Same product.

Sources: Hospira label (DailyMed set ID 87d6e9dc); FDA National Drug Code Format page; Pfizer Hospital US product page 00409-3977-03.

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Figure 2. Reading a Hospira bacteriostatic water NDC. Sources: Hospira label; FDA NDC format page; Pfizer Hospital US.

Ten, eleven or twelve digits. FDA assigns a 10-digit NDC. Billing systems use an 11-digit form, which is why Pfizer prints 00409-3977-03^[14,4]. A new FDA rule moves every NDC to a uniform 12-digit format on March 7, 2033, with labels allowed to keep the 10-digit form until March 6, 2036^[14]. The product will not change; only the zeros will.

3. The Hospira bacteriostatic water label, explained

The Hospira Bacteriostatic Water for Injection, USP label is short and written for clinicians. Here is what each section says, with a plain-English reading. Quotes and numbers are from the Hospira prescribing information^[1].

Label section	What it says	In plain English
Boxed line	"WARNING: NOT FOR USE IN NEONATES."	Never use it for newborns. The benzyl alcohol is the reason.
Description	Sterile, nonpyrogenic water for injection with 0.9% (9 mg/mL) or 1.1% (11 mg/mL) benzyl alcohol "added as a bacteriostatic preservative"; supplied in a multiple-dose container "from which repeated withdrawals may be made"; pH 5.7 (4.5 to 7.0).	Sterile water plus a preservative that holds back bacterial growth, so one vial can be entered more than once.
Indications	"Indicated only for diluting or dissolving drugs for intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous injection, according to instructions of the manufacturer of the drug."	It is a mixing liquid (diluent), not a treatment. Follow the instructions of the drug you are mixing.
Contraindications	Not in neonates; not for fluid replacement; not for epidural or spinal anesthesia; "must be made approximately isotonic prior to use."	Do not inject it on its own as fluid, and do not use it near the spine.
Warnings	Benzyl alcohol "has been associated with toxicity in neonates"; IV use "without a solute may result in hemolysis." For newborns, "only preservative-free Sterile Water for Injection should be used."	Plain water straight into a vein can burst red blood cells. Something must be dissolved in it first.

Label section	What it says	In plain English
Precautions	Use aseptic technique; some drugs are incompatible with benzyl alcohol; "Do not use unless the solution is clear and seal intact."	Clean technique every time, check the drug you are mixing is compatible, and skip any cloudy vial or broken seal.
Adverse reactions	Fever, local tenderness, abscess, tissue necrosis or infection at the site, venous thrombosis or phlebitis, extravasation. An estimated IV dose up to 30 mL "may be safely given to an adult"; about 9 mL to a 6 kg infant could change blood pressure.	Most problems come from the injection itself or the added drug. Adults tolerate one vial's worth of benzyl alcohol; infants do not.
Storage	"Store at 20 to 25°C (68 to 77°F)."	Room temperature before opening. For handling after opening, see our bacteriostatic water guide .
Tray panel	"Rx only"; "FOR DRUG DILUENT USE ONLY."	A prescription product, sold only for mixing.

A dated text. The printed label carries code LAB-0977-2.0 and "Revised: 08/2019"^[1]. DailyMed has published 10 versions of the listing since August 2006, most recently on July 8, 2026^[15]. A newer listing date does not mean the wording changed. Most updates carry listing data, not new safety text.

Limitation: the label's safety statements are short and mostly date from older practice. They describe the product's approved use as a diluent, not any particular drug you mix into it.

4. What "USP" and "Rx only" mean

Both phrases on the Hospira bacteriostatic water label carry legal weight.

"USP". The United States Pharmacopeia publishes monographs, which set a medicine's expected identity, strength, purity and performance, and the tests used to check them^[16]. USP calls itself "an official quality standard for medicines marketed in the US"^[16]. Federal law backs this up: a drug sold under a name recognized in an official compendium is adulterated if its strength differs from, or its quality or purity falls below, the compendium standard^[17]. So "Bacteriostatic Water for Injection, USP" is a claim that the product meets the USP monograph for that name.

Meeting a monograph is not the same as FDA approval. USP says compliance with a monograph "is not" a license to market a medicine; approval is FDA's call^[16]. For Hospira bacteriostatic water, approval comes from NDA 018802^[6].

Limitation: the USP monograph text for Bacteriostatic Water for Injection sits behind the USP-NF subscription, so we do not reproduce its test limits here. The pH and strength figures in this guide come from the FDA-listed label.

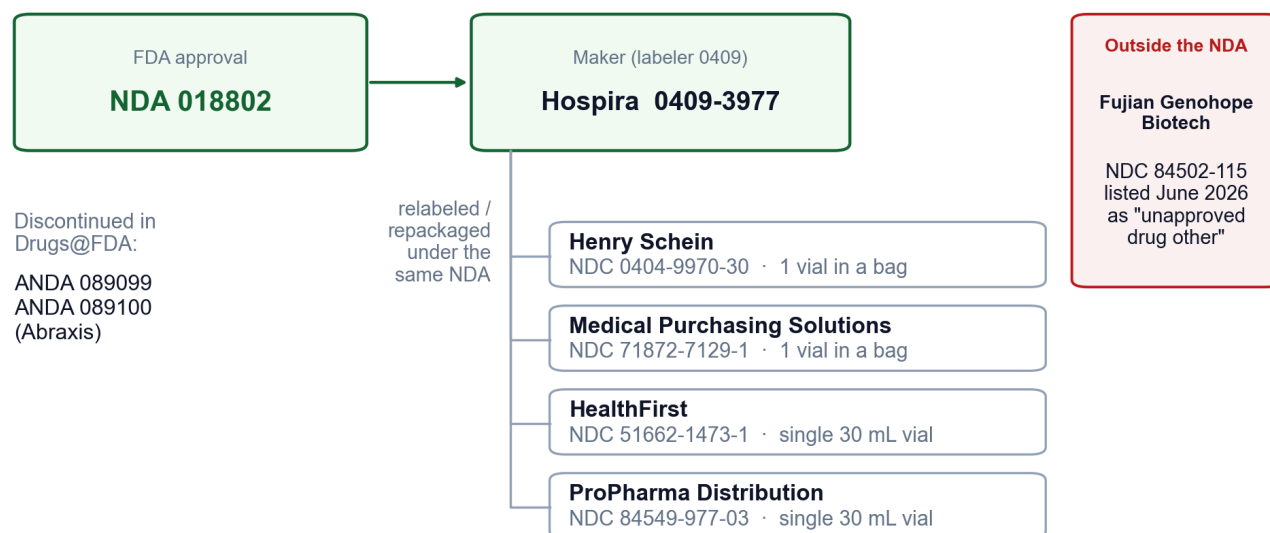
"Rx only". Federal law requires the label of every prescription drug to carry, at a minimum, the symbol "Rx only" before it is dispensed^[18]. Hospira's tray label carries it^[1]. In the US, bacteriostatic water for injection is a prescription product.

5. Other bacteriostatic water NDCs in the FDA directory

Several companies list bacteriostatic water, but nearly all of them trace back to Hospira. We searched the FDA NDC Directory for every bacteriostatic product on October 13, 2026^[2]. Apart from Hospira, four labelers list bacteriostatic water under Hospira's NDA 018802, and one lists it with no approval at all.

Who lists bacteriostatic water for injection in the US?

Every bacteriostatic water NDC in the FDA NDC Directory, grouped by the approval it is sold under (Oct 13, 2026)



Sources: FDA NDC Directory (openFDA ndc endpoint) and Drugs@FDA, queried Oct 13, 2026; repackager labels on DailyMed. An NDC listing is not an FDA approval.

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Figure 3. Every bacteriostatic water NDC in the FDA directory, by the approval it is sold under. Sources: FDA NDC Directory and Drugs@FDA, October 13, 2026.

Labeler	NDC	Listed under	Container and size	Benzyl alcohol, per its label
Hospira, Inc.	0409-3977-03	NDA 018802	Tray of 25 x 30 mL plastic Fliptop vials	0.9% (9 mg/mL) ^[1]
ProPharma Distribution	84549-977-03	NDA 018802	Single 30 mL plastic Fliptop vial	9 mg/mL ^[19]
Medical Purchasing Solutions	71872-7129-1	NDA 018802	One 30 mL vial in a bag; label lists Hospira tray 0409-3977-03 as source	0.9% (9 mg/mL) ^[20]
HF Acquisition Co (HealthFirst)	51662-1473-1	NDA 018802	Single 30 mL vial; label reads "Distributed by Hospira"	Text gives both 0.9% and 1.1%; strength not tied to this NDC ^[21]
Henry Schein, Inc.	0404-9970-30	NDA 018802	One 30 mL multiple-dose vial in a bag	Text gives both strengths; see note ^[22]
Fujian Genohope Biotech Ltd.	84502-115-02	Unapproved drug other	Carton of 25 x 30 mL multiple-dose vials; listed June 2026	Not stated in the label text ^[23]

Listing category and package descriptions: FDA NDC Directory^[2]. Note on Henry Schein: its label's repackaging table names source NDC 0409-4887-99, a 100 mL single-dose glass vial, which the FDA directory lists as Hospira Sterile Water, not bacteriostatic water^[22,24]. That clashes with its own 30 mL multiple-dose listing. Errors like this are why the vial in your hand matters more than any listing.

Where are Fresenius Kabi and others? Fresenius Kabi lists bacteriostatic *sodium chloride* (ANDA 088911), not bacteriostatic water^[2,7]. The only other bacteriostatic water applications in Drugs@FDA, ANDA 089099 and ANDA 089100 from Abraxis, are marked "Discontinued"^[7]. That is why ASHP describes Pfizer as the sole supplier^[8].

An NDC is not an approval. FDA states that assigning an NDC "does not in any way denote FDA approval of the product", and that it does not verify what labelers submit to the directory^[25]. The Genohope listing shows this: it has an NDC, but its marketing category is "unapproved drug other"^[2].

More on this at PeptideDeck: [Bacteriostatic water vs sterile water vs saline](#)

6. Hospira bacteriostatic water shortage history

Two public trackers have recorded Hospira bacteriostatic water shortages since 2021. FDA keeps one list and ASHP (with the University of Utah) keeps another; they are run separately and do not always agree.

Date	Tracker	What it recorded
Nov 16, 2021	ASHP	Shortage opened. Reason: increased demand for Pfizer's bacteriostatic water ^[26]
Dec 3, 2021	FDA	NDC 0409-3977-03 posted under FDA's "Sterile Water Injection" shortage ^[10]
Mar 6, 2023	ASHP	Shortage marked resolved; 30 mL vials available ^[26]
Jul 15, 2025	ASHP	New shortage. Reason: "manufacturing delays"; "insufficient supply for usual ordering"; vials "available in limited supply"; Pfizer named as sole supplier ^[8]
Sep 22, 2026	FDA	Entry reverified: status "Current", availability "Available" ^[10]
Oct 13, 2026	Pfizer catalog	Product page status "Available" ^[4]

So in October 2026, the FDA shortage entry stays open while both FDA and Pfizer show stock as available. The ASHP bulletin dated July 2025 still sits on ASHP's current-shortage list. Neither tracker says when the 2025 supply problem started at the plant, and neither gives volumes.

Limitation: shortage databases record what manufacturers and pharmacists report. They tell you that supply was tight, not how tight it was in any one region or pharmacy. For what tight supply does to cost, see our [bacteriostatic water prices page](#).

7. How to check a Hospira bacteriostatic water vial

Seven checks take under a minute. Each one is tied to something the label or an FDA database says.

- 1. Seal and cap intact.** The label says not to use the vial unless the seal is intact^[1].
- 2. The word "Bacteriostatic".** Hospira's vial reads "BACTERIOSTATIC WATER for Injection, USP"^[1]. A vial that says "Sterile Water" is a different, preservative-free product.
- 3. Benzyl alcohol strength.** The plastic vial reads "0.9% benzyl alcohol added" and the glass vial "1.1% benzyl alcohol added"^[1]. Plastic with 1.1%, or glass with 0.9%, does not match either Hospira product.
- 4. The NDC matches section 2.** Hospira's labeler code is 0409. Product code 3977 should be a 30 mL plastic vial; 1093 should be a 20 mL fill in glass^[1]. A loose vial from Hospira's tray belongs to vial NDC 0409-3977-01, not the tray code -03^[1,4].
- 5. Lot and expiry printed.** Hospira's vial label has a LOT and an EXP field^[1]. If either is missing or unreadable, ask a pharmacist before use.

6. **"Multiple-dose" on the label.** Hospira labels both vials as multiple-dose containers^[1].

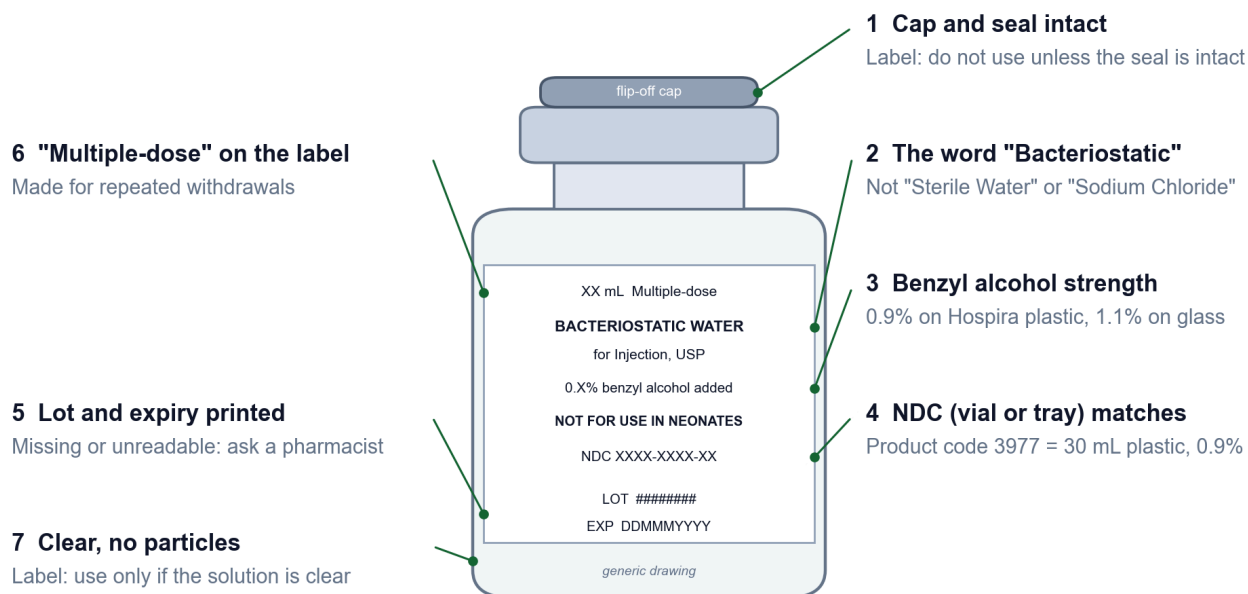
7. **Clear, with no particles.** The label says to use the solution only if it is clear and to inspect for particles and discoloration^[1].

Single vials and repackagers. Hospira sells this product only in trays of 25^[1,4]. Single vials reach clinics through relabelers, which list their own NDCs and their own labels^[2]. A single vial is not suspicious by itself. Check that its NDC appears in the FDA directory and that its strength and container match what that labeler lists (section 5).

Serial numbers (DSCSA). The Drug Supply Chain Security Act, enacted in 2013, sets up tracing of prescription drugs at the package level^[27]. Each package must carry a product identifier: the NDC plus a serial number of up to 20 characters, the lot and the expiry, in both human-readable and machine-readable form^[28]. The law defines a package as the smallest individual saleable unit^[28]. For Hospira bacteriostatic water, Pfizer's unit of sale is a pack of 25^[4], so in our reading the tray, not each vial, is the serialized package. Pharmacies must only accept prescription drugs that come with tracing documentation^[29].

How to check a Hospira bacteriostatic water vial

Seven things to look at before use. Our own generic drawing, not the manufacturer's artwork



Checks drawn from the Hospira bacteriostatic water label (DailyMed set ID 87d6e9dc) and the FDA NDC Directory. Placeholder text shown; read your own vial.

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Figure 4. A generic vial with the seven checks. Our own drawing with placeholder text, not Hospira's label artwork. Source: Hospira label; FDA NDC Directory.

8. How to look up an NDC yourself

All of the databases used in this guide are free and public.

1. **FDA NDC Directory.** Search by NDC, labeler or name. It is updated daily^[25]. Remember that a listing is not an approval. For a quick check, the openFDA address `api.fda.gov/drug/ndc.json?search=product_ndc:"0409-3977"` returns the listing as text^[2].
2. **DailyMed.** Search the NDC to read the full label and the package panels, including any repackager label^[1].
3. **Drugs@FDA.** Search application 018802 to see the approval date and marketing status^[6].

4. FDA Drug Shortages. Search "bacteriostatic" to see whether the NDC is on the shortage list^[10].

Keep reading at PeptideDeck: [Bacteriostatic water guide: mixing, storage and the 28-day rule](#) · [Bacteriostatic water prices and vial sizes](#) · [Bacteriostatic vs sterile water vs saline](#) · [Peptide calculator](#)

Sources

Every fact in this guide comes from one of these sources, all opened on or before October 13, 2026. Database queries reflect that date and will change.

1. Hospira, Inc. Bacteriostatic Water for Injection, USP. Prescribing information and package labels (LAB-0977-2.0, revised 08/2019). DailyMed set ID 87d6e9dc-fe3b-4593-ac9a-d7493d1959c7, SPL version 20, published July 8, 2026.
2. US Food and Drug Administration. National Drug Code Directory, bacteriostatic products (openFDA ndc endpoint, queried October 13, 2026).
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4. Pfizer Hospital US. Product page: Bacteriostatic Water for Injection, USP, 30 mL multiple dose plastic Fliptop vial, NDC 00409-3977-03 (accessed October 13, 2026).
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10. US Food and Drug Administration. Drug Shortages database record for Bacteriostatic Water for Injection in Plastic Container, NDC 0409-3977-03 (openFDA shortages endpoint, queried October 13, 2026).
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16. United States Pharmacopeia. What is a USP Monograph? (overview of monographs).
17. Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act section 501(b), 21 U.S.C. 351(b): drugs differing from an official compendium (Cornell LII).
18. Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act section 503(b)(4), 21 U.S.C. 353(b)(4): the 'Rx only' symbol (Cornell LII).
19. ProPharma Distribution. Bacteriostatic Water for Injection, USP (NDC 84549-977-03). DailyMed set ID 42c6938e-f747-ae13-e063-6294a90a59a3, published November 2025.
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21. HF Acquisition Co LLC, DBA HealthFirst. Bacteriostatic Water (NDC 51662-1473-1). DailyMed set ID 99b0ef9b-600a-40dc-e053-2a95a90aa07e, published January 2025.
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23. Fujian Genohope Biotech Ltd. Bacteriostatic Water (NDC 84502-115). DailyMed set ID 54f66b82-c9e5-a2bc-e063-6394a90adbbc, published June 2026.
24. US Food and Drug Administration. National Drug Code Directory entry for product NDC 0409-4887 (Hospira Sterile Water), openFDA, queried October 13, 2026.

25. US Food and Drug Administration. National Drug Code Directory (about the directory; content current as listed on the page).
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29. US Food and Drug Administration. Pharmacists: Utilize DSCSA Requirements to Protect Your Patients (content current as of June 12, 2024).

Disclaimer. This guide is for information only and is not medical advice. PeptideDeck is independent and is not affiliated with, sponsored by or endorsed by Pfizer or Hospira; product names are used only to identify the product. Bacteriostatic water for injection is a prescription product in the US. It contains benzyl alcohol and must not be used in newborns. Follow the instructions for the drug you are mixing and the advice of your prescriber or pharmacist.

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