



Drug Shortage

Methylnaltrexone 20 mg/mL Injection

The issue: Nationwide shortage of methylnaltrexone 20 mg/mL Injection (Relistor®). The vials are on backorder and the kits have been discontinued. The only Canadian manufacturer of this product is Lupin.

NH stock status: NH stock near depletion.

Practice Implications: Once stock depleted, no further supply.

Indication:

Methylnaltrexone is a restricted formulary drug for use in patients with chronic opioid-induced constipation that is unresponsive to conventional therapies.

Possible Alternatives:

Oral: bisacodyl, sennosides, magnesium citrate, magnesium hydroxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, pico-Salax, sodium phosphate, lactulose

Rectal: glycerin suppositories, mineral oil enemas, Microlax (or equivalent) enemas, fleet enemas.

Please consult your site clinical pharmacist as needed!

Anticipated Backorder Resolution Date:

The estimated resupply date for the vials is July 2017

Date: March 6, 2017

Best Practice	
Drug Discontinuation	
Label Change	
Medication Change	
Recall	
Vendor Change	
Drug Shortage	✓
Formulary Changes	

For the information of:
physicians, nurses,
pharmacists

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