



Temporary Drug Shortage

Vasopressin 20 units/mL Injection

The issue: Nationwide shortage of vasopressin 20 units/mL injection, 1 mL (limited supply) and 5 mL vials (full backorder).

NH stock status:

Many sites are beginning to run low on vasopressin injection. NH pharmacy reserving some stock for crash carts and organ donor management.

Practice Implications:

There is no direct alternative available.

The use of alternates should be considered where possible to preserve existing supplies:

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES*

Clinical Situation	Suggested Alternative
Diabetes Insipidus	desmopressin
Variceal Hemorrhage	octreotide
Pulseless Cardiac Arrest**	epiNEPHrine
Vasodilatory/Septic Shock	norepinephrine
Organ donor management in brain-dead patients***	Desmopressin***

** NH reserving some stock for crash carts.

*** may not be appropriate in all situations as it has minimal vasopressor activity. Some vasopressin being reserved.

Anticipated Backorder Resolution Date: *Sometime in April 2017...*

Date: March 9, 2017

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

For the information of:
physicians, nurses,
pharmacists

For further information please contact:

Gordon Harper
Medication Use Management
Pharmacist (778-349-3216)
Nancy Dyck
Medication Use Management
Pharmacist (250-261-7555)
mumpharmacist@
northernhealth.ca

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