

Drug Shortage

Methylene Blue 10 mg/mL 1 mL and 5 mL vials

The issue: Both suppliers of methylene blue 10 mg/mL injection are unable to supply due to lack of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). Omega Laboratories communicated on December 10th that they are out of stock of methylene blue 10 mg/mL 1 mL and 5 mL vials with no estimated date for resupply. Teligent has communicated that methylene blue 10 mg/mL 5 mL vials are on backorder with no estimated date for resupply.

Anticipate Availability: Unknown

NH stock status: NH currently has approximately six weeks of stock. **We need to begin using alternative products where possible to conserve existing methylene blue 10 mg/mL injection inventories for medically necessary indications.**

Practice Implications: We need to conserve methylene blue injection for the following indications:

- Methemoglobinemia toxicity as per DPIC recommendations
- Ifosfamide-induced encephalopathy
- Refractory hypotension (e.g. CCB and BB overdose as last line)

Clinicians please consider using an alternative product where possible*. The suggested alternatives can be made available to patient care areas, please contact your hospital pharmacy. At DCDH, PRRH and UHNBC for cases requiring methylene blue injection with doses of less than 5 mLs please use 1 mL vials. Please note because there is no stability data for keeping partial vials or prepared compounded solutions they should be considered single use.

Indication	Alternative*
Ureter function test during cystoscopy	1) Phenazopyridine (oral compounded), IV fluorescein sodium, or 2) Bladder distention with sterile water or normal saline
Cataract Surgery	1) Fluorescein, or 2) Indocyanine green
Bladder integrity, e.g. post C-section or pelvic surgery	Indocyanine green
Macular holes	
Uretic cuts post pelvic surgery	
Polypectomy/endoscopic tissue resections	Use a lower dose of methylene blue, indocyanine green, normal saline, dextrose, or hypertonic saline
Anastomotic leaks, e.g. post bariatric surgery	Methylene blue 1% oral solution
Chromoendoscopy	
Lymphatic marker dye	Patent blue sodium injection

Note: Patent blue sodium and fluorescein sodium are the only sterile marker dyes currently available on the Canadian market. Indocyanine green is currently on backorder and **Health Canada requires hospitals who want to use indocyanine green to apply through the Special Access Program to obtain stock.**

December 17, 2018 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists: Gordon Harper (778-349-3216) Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Formulary change		
	Best Practice		
	Label Change		



*Alternates are provided for clinical information and may not be relevant in all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinical judgment.