



Drug Shortage

Vancomycin 500 mg and 1 g vials

The issue: Vancomycin 500 mg and 1 g vials are on a national shortage and all vendors are unable to supply.

NH stock status: NH has approximately two weeks of inventory and we will stock out before supplies are made available. There is a potential for some 500 mg or 1 g vials will be made available mid/late January; however, our current supplier is indicating March 2019.

Practice Implications:

- Physicians please ensure vancomycin injection is used only in MRSA positive patients. If there is no indication for its use please ensure the order is discontinued or switched to a more appropriate antibiotic.
- NH Pharmacy will be providing premixed vancomycin IV admixture bags for parenteral administration in place of vials where possible.
- **Patient care units should expect to see premixed vancomycin IV admixture solutions in various strengths (e.g. 500 mg in 100 mLs and 1,000 mg in 250 mLs) and may be required to administer multiple bags at one time to give total prescribed dose (e.g. administer 1 x 500 mg in 100 mL AND 1 x 1,000 mg in 250 mL to give total dose = 1,500 mg).**
- Premixed vancomycin IV admixture bags have a limited dating; therefore, existing vancomycin 500 mg and 1 g vial inventories will be limited to low use sites and for indications that require vials to be dispensed.
- Please refer to the [Parenteral Drug Administration Manual](#) for further information regarding drug administration.
- Use extra diligence when handling premixed parenteral solutions to ensure the correct dose is administered.

December 20, 2018

For the information of
physicians, nurses and
pharmacists

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Drug Shortage	✓
Formulary change	
Best Practice	
Recall	
Label Change	

For further information contact:

NH Medication Use Management
Pharmacists:

Gordon Harper (778-349-3216)

Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940)

mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca