

Drug Shortage

Vitamin K1 1 mg/0.5 mL & 10 mg/1 mL ampoule

The issue: Both strengths of vitamin K1 injection 1 mg/0.5 mL and 10 mg/1 mL ampoules are on backorder. There is only one Canadian manufacturer and supplies are limited.

Anticipated Availability: Mid to late October.

Implications for Practice:* Vitamin K1 injection needs to be reserved for:

1. The treatment of serious or life-threatening anticoagulant induced prothrombin deficiency caused by warfarin or its derivatives. For example:
 - a. Patients on warfarin, warfarin overdose or rodenticide poisoning with an active, severe bleed or failure to respond to oral vitamin K.
 - b. Patients on warfarin going into major surgery.
 - c. Co-administration with prothrombin complex concentrate (PCC), e.g. Octaplex, Beriplex.
2. Vitamin K deficiency bleeding of the newborn.
 - a. Hemorrhage of newborns, both treatment and prophylaxis.
3. The treatment of serious or life-threatening hypoprothrombinemia.
4. Patients with limited synthesis and absorption of oral vitamin K, e.g. short gut syndrome.
5. Adults on total parenteral nutrition (TPN) as follows (UHNBC Only):
 - a. Patients with INR 1.3 or greater.
 - b. Patients who are receiving lipid-free TPN (and thereby not getting vitamin K).
 - c. Patients who are anticipated to be on TPN for longer than 6 weeks.
 - d. Patients on warfarin.
 - e. NOTE: Dietitians will assess TPN patients for the above indications and will facilitate Vitamin K ordering where indicated.

Recommended alternatives:* Use vitamin K 1 mg/mL oral solution for:

1. Reduction of elevated INR associated with warfarin overdose or rodenticide poisoning with no evidence of major bleeding.
2. Acquired hypoprothrombinemia without active bleeding.
3. Dietary vitamin K deficiency.

Contact your local hospital pharmacy if your patient care area does not have vitamin K oral solution.

July 25, 2018 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Label Change		For further information contact: Medication Use Management Pharmacists Gordon Harper (778-349-3216) Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Medication New Look!		
	Recall		
	Drug Shortage	✓	
	Formulary change		