



# Drug Shortage:

Etomidate 2 mg/mL X 10 mL vials

Special Access Programme Medication

**The Issue:** The sole source provider for the Special Access Programme (SAP) medication etomidate 2 mg/mL X 10 mL vials, has indicated that they are unable to supply for the remainder of 2019. Based on historical use, NH has approximately 2 months of stock available in pharmacies, at the ward level and in crash kits. Stock at some sites will be expiring at the end of October.

**Anticipated Availability:** Earliest date of resupply is January 2020.

**Clinical Use:** Etomidate 2 mg/mL X 10 mL vials is approved for use in rapid-sequence intubation (RSI) and procedural sedation as per SAP criteria.

**Practice Implications:** Clinicians should be aware of the shortage and potential gap in supply, and utilize alternative sedating agents for both RSI and procedural sedation where clinically appropriate. It is recommended that remaining etomidate vials be reserved for the RSI indication when alternatives are not suitable.

**Alternatives\*:**

- IV propofol
- IV ketamine
- IV midazolam

<b>October 11, 2019</b>  For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists  <b>PLEASE POST</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>Drug Shortage</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>Expiry</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>Prevention + Conservation</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">✓</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Drug Shortage</b>	✓	<b>Expiry</b>	✓	<b>Prevention + Conservation</b>	✓	<b>For further information contact:</b>  NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists:  Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) Ryan Doerksen (778-349-5108) <a href="mailto:mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca" style="color: white;">mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</a>
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