



UHNBC Heparin 25,000 units/500 mL D5W bags

The Issue: The single-source manufacturer of pre-mixed heparin 25,000 units/500 mL D5W bags is on backorder with no alternative vendors available.

Anticipated Availability: Late February 2020 to early March 2020.

Practice Implications: UHNBC will be stocking out of heparin 25,000 units/500 mL (50 units/mL) D5W bags. Due to limited stability data, pharmacy will not be compounding a replacement product and will instead supply patient care areas with “heparin 25,000 units/500 mL D5W kits” for nursing to prepare just before administration. These kits will be supplied for the length of the backorder at UHNBC.

Heparin 25,000 units/500 mL D5W kits will be packaged in a clear zip-lock bag and will contain:

- 1 x 500 mL D5W bag
- 5 x heparin 5,000 units/0.5 mL vial
- Medication shortage poster

The heparin bag will be prepared just prior to administration for immediate use by adding 2.5 mLs of heparin 5,000 units/0.5 mL from the supplied vials to one 500 mL D5W bag. Do not be concerned with overfill or the exact diluted concentration of the drug. Any unused bags should be discarded.

Note: [heparin is a high risk/high alert medication requiring an independent double check.](#)

December 13, 2019 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: <i>Jessica Brecknock *or* Ryan Doerksen</i> Medication Use Management Pharmacists mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Drug Discontinuation		
	Medication Change		
	Best Practice		

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