



# Drug Shortage: Preventative Measures

Heparin 10,000 unit/mL X 0.5 mL vials

Heparin 1,000 units/mL X 10 mL vials

**The Issue:** One of the global suppliers of heparin, China, has experienced active ingredient issues due to various reasons and this is expected to increase strain on other heparin suppliers. As such, a proactive approach to conserving the stock we have in Northern Health is recommended.

*Note:* NH has supply until end of October at the current usage rate; however, one of the primary vendors is on backorder until early October and if this is delayed further, there could be challenges with extending the current supply on hand.

**Clinical Use:** The heparin vials affected are primarily used in VTE prophylaxis, CRRT, and heparin IV bolus dosing during heparin infusions.

**Practice Implications:** Clinicians should be aware of the shortage and utilize alternative anticoagulants when clinically appropriate to conserve the heparin supply in Northern Health.

- E.g. VTE Prophylaxis Order Set: prescribe enoxaparin where possible on the form and conserve heparin for those that cannot tolerate a LMWH (e.g. renal impairment)

**Alternatives\*:**

- Enoxaparin injection
- Dalteparin injection (formulary restricted)
- Oral anticoagulants

<p><b>September 13, 2019</b></p> <p>For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists</p> <p><b>PLEASE POST</b></p>	<p><b>Drug Shortage</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	<p><b>For further information contact:</b></p> <p>NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists:</p> <p>Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940)            Ryan Doerksen (778-349-5108)            mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</p>
	<p>Expired Stock</p>		
	<p>Best Practice</p>		
	<p><b>Prevention + Conservation</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	

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