



Drug Shortage Update: Nifedipine Sustained Release (SR) tablets

The Issue: All strengths of nifedipine SR tablets (20mg, 30mg, and 60mg) are on shortage from all Canadian manufacturers. Nifedipine 30mg SR tablets are routinely stocked in NH and **formulary restricted for obstetric indications only**. NH also has some remaining supply of the 20 mg SR tablets.

Anticipated Availability: Minimal (intermittent) supply of 30mg SR tablets may be available throughout the remainder of 2019; estimated availability of the 20mg and 60mg SR tablets is undetermined.

Clinical Use: Clinicians should be aware of the shortage and potential alternatives. Clinicians may also consider alternative dosing outside the 30 mg dose increments (e.g. 20 mg or 40 mg SR doses), where appropriate, in order to utilize the 20 mg SR tablet supply on hand.

Potential Alternatives:**

For obstetric indications: Pharmacy will contact the prescriber in the event we stock out of the drug and will discuss formulary alternatives with the prescriber. Alternatives will vary according to indication for use and may not be appropriate for all situations:

- First line formulary alternatives for maintenance therapy for hypertension in pregnancy:
 - Labetalol 100 mg and 200 mg immediate release (IR) tablets
 - Methyldopa 100 mg and 250 IR mg tablets
 - **Note:** nifedipine IR tablets are available but should only be used for acute therapy of severe hypertension in pregnancy (SR formulation is not directly equivalent to the IR formulation). ***Caution as potential for precipitous hypotension with IR formulation***
- **NH Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy Order Sets:** #[10-111-5233](#), #[10-111-5234](#), #[10-111-5235](#)

For non-obstetric indications:

All inpatient orders for nifedipine SR for non-obstetric indications will be therapeutically interchanged to amlodipine (see TIP below):

See formulary information for nifedipine TIP on OurNH

DRUG ORDERED	DRUG DISPENSED
nifedipine XL ¹ 20 mg	amlodipine 2.5 mg
nifedipine XL ¹ 30 mg and 40 mg	amlodipine 5 mg
nifedipine XL ¹ 60 mg and 90 mg	amlodipine 10 mg

¹ Do NOT substitute nifedipine SR in pregnancy

August 9, 2019 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: Medication Use Management Pharmacists Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) Ryan Doerksen (778-349-5108) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
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