



# Drug Shortage: **UPDATE**

## Oxytocin 10 units/mL X 1 mL vials

**The Issue:** Both manufacturers of oxytocin 10 units/mL X 1 mL vials are now indicating shortages. Based on historic use, NH currently has 4 to 6 weeks of inventory of 1 mL stock. NH pharmacy was able to obtain a supply of oxytocin 10 units/mL X 10 mL multi-dose vials to help supplement existing 1 mL stock at sites with high oxytocin use. This supply of 10 mL product should be available in the next few weeks.

**Anticipated Availability:** Anticipated resupply date mid to late November 2019 for Fresenius Kabi 1 mL product (primary supplier for NH).

**Clinical Use:** Oxytocin is used first line for post-partum hemorrhage and for induction/augmentation of labour.

**Practice Implications:** Physicians and nurses should be aware of this national shortage and are encouraged to follow the regional NH oxytocin mixing concentrations to **reduce waste as much as possible:**

- Post-Partum Hemorrhage (Regional Order Set [#10-111-5326](#)):
  - oxytocin 20 units in 1000 mL of NS
- Induction/Augmentation of Labour (Regional Order Set [#10-111-5161](#)):
  - No fluid restriction: 10 units in 1000 mL desired fluid
  - Fluid restricted: 20 units in 1000 mL desired fluid
  - Extreme fluid restriction: 30 units in 1000 mL desired fluid
- The 10 mL multi-dose vials should be reserved for use when a higher concentration is desired and should not be discarded after each patient until all doses have been withdrawn. Please label these vials with date of first puncture for reference. When stored according to manufacturer's recommendations (temperature between 15-30°C), the vial can be stored for 28 days following first puncture.

**Possible Alternatives\*:**

- Misoprostol – (NH Clinical Practice Standard [#1-1-2-050](#))
- Carbetocin – see [formulary restrictions](#) for prevention of uterine atony and post-partum hemorrhage

<b>October 11, 2019</b>  For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists  <b>PLEASE POST</b>	<b>Drug Shortage</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">mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</a>
	<b>Back Order</b>	✓	
	<b>Prevention + Conservation</b>	✓	