



Drug Shortage + Recall: **Update**

Ranitidine injectable

The Issue: As previously communicated, all oral ranitidine products in Canada have been recalled due to the presence of an impurity, NDMA. Ranitidine 25 mg/mL X 2 mL injectable was initially exempt from recall procedures but Health Canada has now placed a stop distribution on existing supply in order to conduct further quality assurance testing. NH has approximately 3 weeks supply of injectable ranitidine in pharmacies in addition to approximately 2 weeks supply on wards; however, some wardstock may be expiring shortly as well. NH may stock out before more product is available.

Anticipated Availability: Undetermined at this time.

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of the shortage and potential alternatives.
- **Clinicians are asked to assess patient suitability for de-escalation of therapy** (e.g. oral antacids) before increasing therapy to proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs). If IV acid suppression is required, IV pantoprazole is available.

Alternatives:**

- Antacids (e.g. TUMS, Gaviscon, Almagel, Pepto-Bismol): consider de-escalation as first line option
- Famotidine 20 mg tablets **restricted** to:
 - pediatric/neonatal patients (including those requiring a compounded oral suspension)
 - patients with allergy or absolute contraindications to PPI
- Pantoprazole (oral and IV): formulary unrestricted
- Esomeprazole/omeprazole/lansoprazole tablets/capsules: see formulary restriction criteria

November 29, 2019 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage/Recall	✓	For further information contact: NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists: Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) Ryan Doerksen (250-565-5956) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Formulary change		
	Best Practice		
	Recall		
	Label Change		