



Drug Shortage **Update:** Crash Cart and Wardstock Locations

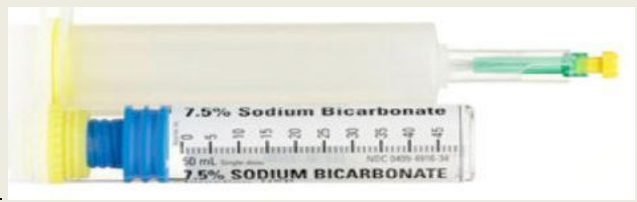

Sodium Bicarbonate 7.5% (0.9 mEq/mL) x 50 mL PFS

The Issue: The shortage of LifeShield™ sodium bicarbonate PFS products now includes the 7.5% x 50 mL PFS. The expected resupply date is the end of October 2019 and NH may experience periods of low stock due to reduced order allocations.

Clinical Use: Sodium bicarbonate 7.5% x 50 mL PFS are stocked in wardstock locations across Northern Health for treatment of metabolic acidosis.

Practice Implications: Sodium bicarbonate 8.4% (1 mEq/mL) x 50 mL VIALS remain available and will be stocked as an alternate to sodium bicarbonate 7.5% (0.9 mEq/mL) x 50 mL PFS if required during this shortage. The concentration of the vials is higher than the PFS – see below for information on equivalency. The vials are not in the ready-to-use format; if a wardstock area is stocked with a vial (instead of a PFS), a backorder notice card will be provided to alert staff. Clinicians need to ensure they are familiar with using the vial format for treating metabolic acidosis in an urgent situation (e.g. where to locate required needles and syringes).

Product Comparison:

Current 50 mL PFS	Alternative 50 mL VIAL
Sodium bicarbonate 7.5% X 50 mL PFS	Sodium bicarbonate 8.4% X 50 mL VIAL *Higher concentration*
	
Concentration: 0.9 mEq/mL	Concentration: 1 mEq/mL
Equivalent mEq:	
7.5% PFS X 50 mL = 45 mEq	8.4% vial X 45 mL = 45 mEq

July 26, 2019 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact NH Medication Use Pharmacists: Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) Ryan Doerksen (778-349-5108) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Best Practice		
	Interim Product Change	✓	