



Drug Shortage and Product Change



Succinylcholine 20 mg/mL X 20 mL vial

The issue: The Canadian supplied succinylcholine 20 mg/mL X **20 mL** vial from Teligent remains on backorder with an anticipated resupply date of mid to late September 2019. An alternative U.S.-labelled succinylcholine 20 mg/mL X **10 mL** product from Pfizer is now available in Canada to bridge the supply gap.

Clinical Use: Succinylcholine is a neuromuscular blocking agent used in endotracheal intubation, surgery and mechanical ventilation.

Practice Implications: Staff may see both Canadian-labelled and U.S.-labelled succinylcholine vials during the shortage. While the product content is identical, there are differences in appearance, vial size (20 mL vs 10 mL), and the beyond-use date (BUD) after first puncture which is shorter for the U.S. Pfizer product (see table below for further comparison).

Product Comparison:

Canadian Product: Teligent	United States Product: Pfizer
succinylcholine chloride 20 mg/mL	succinylcholine chloride 20 mg/mL
VIAL SIZE: 20 mL	VIAL SIZE: 10 mL
BUD after 1 st puncture: 28 days	BUD after 1 st puncture: 14 days
Vial Label (English + French): 	Vial Label (English only): 

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For the information of physicians,
nurses and pharmacists
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Drug Shortage	✓
Best Practice	
Product Change	✓

For further information contact

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