



## Drug Shortage

### Verapamil Sustained Release: 120 mg SR, 180 mg SR and 240 mg SR tablets

**The Issue:** Verapamil 120 mg SR, 180 mg SR and 240 mg SR tablets are on back order from all Canadian manufacturers. We expect to stock out of 180 mg SR tablets within four weeks. Inventories of other strengths are depleting.

**Anticipated Availability:** The availability dates vary by manufacturer and strength. The expected availability for the 180 mg SR tablets is May 2019 and for the other strengths is late April 2019.

**Clinical Use:** Clinicians should be aware of the shortage.

**Potential Alternatives:\*\***

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:

- As an alternative to 120 mg SR tablets, the 240 mg SR tablet can be split in half and the sustained release properties will be maintained.
- Switching from the once daily SR formulations to a three times daily immediate release (IR) formulation (e.g. 120 mg IR or 80 mg IR strengths available).
  - Note: the total daily dose remains the same unless formulation strength does not allow for equal conversion
- Switching to another calcium channel blocker may be preferred to administering multiple daily doses. Patients will need to be monitored and doses adjusted as needed. Formulary alternatives include:
  - Diltiazem 30 mg and 60 mg immediate release tablets
  - Diltiazem T/SR or CD products are considerable interchangeable in NH and are available in the following strengths: 120 mg, 180 mg, 240 mg and 300 mg capsules
  - Amlodipine 2.5 mg, 5 mg and 10 mg tablets.
- Switching to another rate-controlling agent, such as a beta-blocker (e.g. metoprolol), depending on indication and other co-morbidities.

<b>March 29, 2019</b> <b>For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists</b> <b>PLEASE POST</b>	<b>Drug Shortage</b>	✓	<b>For further information contact:</b> Medication Use Management Pharmacists Gordon Harper (778-349-3216) Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) <a href="mailto:mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca">mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</a>
	Medication New Look!		
	Recall		
	Label Change		
	Formulary change		



\*\*Alternates are provided for clinician information and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinical judgment.