



**Bupivacaine HCl 0.25% with EPINEPHrine 1:200,000 injection and
Bupivacaine HCl 0.5% with EPINEPHrine 1:200,000 injection**

The Issue: Bupivacaine HCl 0.25% with EPINEPHrine 1:200,000 injection is on backorder and bupivacaine HCl 0.5% with EPINEPHrine 1:200,000 injection is on reduced order allocation (from both Canadian suppliers). NH currently has very low stock of the 0.25% concentration and approximately 3 to 4 weeks of the 0.5% concentration.

Anticipated Availability:

- Aspen brand (Sensorcaine®; our primary product) – ETA early October 2021 (0.25%) and end of August 2021 (0.5%)
- Pfizer brand (Marcaine E®; secondary product) – ETA end of September 2021

Clinical Use: local anesthetic for local or regional anesthesia or analgesia

Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug shortage and potential alternatives.
- **As recommended during previous drug shortages of these products in consultation with the Department of Anesthesia:**
 - Compounding of bupivacaine with EPINEPHrine from its component parts should be limited to Anesthesia ONLY. This is a high-risk activity with high margin for error only to be used during the drug shortage.

Potential Alternatives*:

- Bupivacaine HCl 0.25% injection
- Bupivacaine HCl 0.5% injection

August 6, 2021 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: Medication Use Management Pharmacists mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Drug Discontinuation		
	Medication Change		
	Best Practice		

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