



## Losartan Oral Tablets

**The Issue:** Sandoz recently recalled several lots of losartan oral tablets (25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg) due to the presence of an azido impurity above acceptable levels for long term use. The majority of NH supply has been affected and several sites now have no stock. Anticipated availability for resupply is uncertain at this time. This issue of azido impurity has affected various brands and lots of three drugs in the angiotensin II receptor blocker class over the past several months: losartan, irbesartan and valsartan. See the [MedEffect™ e-Notice](#) from Health Canada for more information.

**Clinical Use:** hypertension, diabetic nephropathy, heart failure

### Practice Implications:

- Clinicians should be aware of this drug recall and shortage and formulary alternatives.
- Pharmacists will provide a clarification for an alternate formulary angiotensin II receptor blocker for any orders written for losartan at sites that have no supply.
- Patients currently on losartan at sites with no stock will need to be changed to one of the formulary alternatives as clinically appropriate.

### Potential Formulary Alternatives\*:

- candesartan oral tablets
- valsartan oral tablets

### Approximate Equivalent Doses for Formulary Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (doses may differ depending on indication):

Drug	Total daily dose (mg)		
<i>losartan</i>	25	50	100
<i>candesartan</i>	4	8	16
<i>valsartan</i>	40	80	160

<b>September 17, 2021</b> For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. <b>PLEASE POST</b>	<b>Drug Shortage</b>	✓	<b>For further information contact:</b> Medication Use Management Pharmacists <a href="mailto:mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca">mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca</a>
	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.