



Clindamycin 150 mg/mL Single Use Vials

The Issue: Clindamycin 150 mg/mL preservative-free vials (2 mL, 4 mL, and 6 mL) are on backorder from Sandoz, the only manufacturer in Canada. In addition to this, the majority of the preservative-free supply of clindamycin 150 mg/mL in NH will have expired as of June 30, 2021. NH pharmacy is bringing in a supply of ready-to-use preservative-free minibags (clindamycin 600 mg/50 mL D5W and 900 mg/50mL D5W) which should be available for NH pharmacies to order by early next week. Clindamycin 150 mg/mL X 4 mL vials WITH preservative (benzyl alcohol) are available in reduced amounts from Pfizer; however, this product will likely go on backorder within the next two months as Pfizer allocates more production capacity to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Anticipated Availability: End of July 2021 (preservative-free vials)

Clinical Use: antibiotic for treatment of infections caused by susceptible organisms

Practice Implications:

- **Preservative-free injectable clindamycin should be reserved ONLY for use in neonates, pediatrics and obstetrics as required.**
 - Once available, the ready-to-use minibags may need to be used to prepare doses for neonates and pediatrics for sites that have no vials in stock:
 - 600 mg/50 mL minibag = concentration of 12 mg/mL
 - 900 mg/50 mL minibag = concentration of 18 mg/mL
- Clinicians should only use injectable clindamycin when absolutely necessary, for example:
 - for rapidly progressive skin and soft tissue infections
 - as an alternate agent for patients with severe cephalosporin allergy
 - **Note:** ceFAZolin can safely be used in patients with penicillin allergy as it does not have a similar side chain as any other beta-lactam antibiotic
- Oral clindamycin should be used whenever clinically appropriate as it has very high oral bioavailability.

Potential Alternatives*:

- Contact your local pharmacist(s) to discuss therapeutic alternatives as required.

July 2, 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.