



Injectable Magnesium Sulfate

The Issue: Several formats of injectable magnesium sulfate are on backorder in Canada. These backorders do not directly affect products that NH routinely stocks; however, there is anticipated pressure on the formats and concentrations that remain available such that we may start seeing reduced availability of our usual products (magnesium sulfate 200 mg/mL X 10 mL vials and 500 mg/mL X 10 mL vials).

Anticipated Availability: End of July 2021

Clinical Use: moderate to severe hypomagnesemia, parenteral nutrition, eclampsia/pre-eclampsia, arrhythmias (torsades de pointes)

Practice Implications and Actions Required:

- Clinicians should be aware of this national shortage and formulary alternatives.
- Injectable magnesium should be reserved for priority indications such as:
 - moderate to severe hypomagnesemia
 - eclampsia/pre-eclampsia/antepartum
 - total parenteral nutrition
 - BC Cancer Agency CISplatin-based chemotherapy protocols
- Consider oral magnesium supplementation when clinically appropriate.
- Order the shortest duration of therapy that as clinically appropriate.

Potential Alternatives*:

- magnesium complex 100 mg and 250 mg oral tablets (also on shortage and may not be available at all NH sites)
- magnesium oxide 100 mg oral tablets
- magnesium glucoheptonate 100 mg/mL oral solution

Note: injectable magnesium is a [high risk/high alert medication requiring an independent double check](#)

May 7, 2021 For the information of physicians, nurses, dieticians, 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.