



Heparin 25000 units/500 mL D5W bags

The Issue: The single-source manufacturer of pre-mixed heparin 25000 units/500 mL D5W bags is on backorder with no alternative vendors available.

Anticipated Availability: February 2022

Practice Implications: NH supply of heparin 25000 units/500 mL (50 units/mL) D5W bags is running low and at risk of stocking out. Due to limited stability data, pharmacy will not be compounding a replacement product and will instead supply patient care areas with “heparin 25000 units/500 mL D5W kits” as required for nurses to prepare just before administration. These kits will be supplied for the length of the backorder. Sites may see both the manufactured bags and the pharmacy provided heparin kits during the shortage.

Heparin 25000 units/500 mL D5W kits will be packaged in a clear zip-lock bag and will contain:

- 1 x 500 mL D5W bag
- 5 x heparin 5000 units/0.5 mL vials
- Medication shortage poster

The heparin bag should be prepared just prior to administration for immediate use by adding 2.5 mLs of heparin 5000 units/0.5 mL from the supplied vials to one 500 mL D5W bag. Do not be concerned with overfill or the exact diluted concentration of the drug. Any unused bags should be discarded.

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

January 7, 2022 For the information of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	√	For further information contact: Medication Use Management Pharmacists mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
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